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SOCCER

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**Aussies
await
Chile
welcome**

Dez Marton Goal scoring ace

Euro '96 A personal view

Eric Cantona feature

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ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 31

TABLE

TOTAL

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	56	31	16	8	7	55	33
UTS Olympic	56	31	16	8	7	51	37
Brisbane Strikers	54	31	16	6	9	51	33
Adelaide City	53	31	15	8	8	64	37
Melbourne Knights	53	31	15	8	8	43	27
Sydney United	50	31	13	11	7	43	31
West Adelaide	50	31	15	5	11	45	39
South Melbourne	43	31	13	4	14	48	54
Morwell Falcons	34	31	9	7	15	35	63
Canberra Cosmos	32	31	7	11	13	46	56
Wollongong City	17	31	4	5	22	28	61
Newcastle Breakers	17	31	4	5	22	35	73

HOME

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	16	10	4	2	35	18
UTS Olympic	16	11	4	1	28	12
Brisbane Strikers	15	11	3	1	43	12
Adelaide City	16	9	4	3	38	12
Melbourne Knights	15	9	3	3	20	7
Sydney United	15	9	2	4	28	14
West Adelaide	15	10	1	4	22	14
South Melbourne	16	9	3	4	32	23
Morwell Falcons	15	6	4	5	19	22
Canberra Cosmos	16	5	7	4	26	20
Wollongong City	16	3	3	10	17	26
Newcastle Breakers	16	3	5	8	25	36

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	15	6	4	5	20	15
UTS Olympic	15	5	4	6	23	25
Brisbane Strikers	16	5	3	8	8	21
Adelaide City	15	6	4	5	26	25
Melbourne Knights	16	6	5	5	23	20
Sydney United	16	4	9	3	15	17
West Adelaide	16	5	4	7	23	25
South Melbourne	15	4	1	10	16	31
Morwell Falcons	16	3	3	10	16	41
Canberra Cosmos	15	2	4	9	20	36
Wollongong City	15	1	2	12	11	35
Newcastle Breakers	15	1	0	14	10	37

W WIN 3 Points - D DRAW 1 Points - L LOSS 0

RESULTS

WOLLONGONG CITY.....0	(Damianos 7, Anthopoulos 51)
BRISBANE STRIKERS.....1	(Farina 73)
CANBERRA COSMOS.....2	(Hickman 44og, Lemezina 69)
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS.....0	
SYDNEY UNITED.....2	(Zdrilic 15, S Babic 65)
MORWELL FALCONS.....1	(Villani 64)
SOUTH MELBOURNE.....2	

WEST ADELAIDE.....1	(Cardozo 18)
UTS OLYMPIC.....2	(Edwards 51, Ironside 83)
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD.....1	(Hiristodoulou 21)
ADELAIDE CITY.....5	(Mori 26, 83, Tobin 47pen, Foster 70, Hassell 90)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS.....0	

CROWDS

SEASON BEST: 13,956 - South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9
ROUND 31 BEST: UTS Olympic v Marconi Fairfield 11,897 TOTAL ROUND 31: 28,169
SEASON TOTAL: 795,320. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,275

FANS CLUB BY CLUB

CLUB	TOTAL	MATCHES	AVERAGE
Souths	99901	16	6243
UTS Olympic	98153	16	6134
Brisbane	74941	15	4996
Marconi	77657	16	4853
West Ad	67598	15	4506
Melb Knights	66824	15	4454
Ad City	69148	16	4321
Syd Utd	62414	15	4160
Newcastle	55476	16	3467
Wollongong	46795	16	2924
Canberra	44720	16	2795
Morwell	41411	15	2760

- EACH CLUB'S BEST CROWD -

Souths	13956 v West Ad	R9
UTS Olympic	11897 v Marconi	R31
Marconi	11866 v UTS Olympic	R20
West Ad	10870 v Ad City	R28
Ad City	9601 v West Ad	R17
Syd Utd	9170 v UTS Olympic	R19
Brisbane	8516 v Morwell	R28
Melb Knights	7140 v Souths	R23
Newcastle	6837 v UTS Olympic	R1
Canberra	5490 v Syd Utd	R2
Wollongong	5069 v UTS Olympic	R17
Morwell	4183 v Souths	R2

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LEADING GOALSCORERS

31	Damian Mori	(Adelaide City)
18	Kris Trajanovski	(UTS Olympic)
17	Frank Farina	(Brisbane Strikers)
14	Jim Tsekini	(West Adelaide)
13	Andy Harper	(Marconi)
12	Rodney Brown	(Brisbane Strikers)
12	Bradley Hassell	(Adelaide City)
11	Francis Awaritofe	(Marconi Fairfield)
11	Paul Wade	(Canberra Cosmos)
10	Vaughan Coveny	(South Melbourne)

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SPORTSCENE

Chile v Australia

Australia severely weakened for Chile international

Australia's travelling squad of 16 is:

Goalkeepers:

Mark Bosnich (Aston Villa)
Zeljko Kalac (Wolverhampton)

Defenders

Ernie Tapai (Morwell Falcons)
Andrew Bernal (Reading)
George Kulscar (Royal Antwerp)
Kevin Muscat (South Melbourne)
Jason Van Bler (Millwall)

Midfielders

Lorenz Kintner (Belgium)
Paul Wade (Canberra Cosmos)
Steve Corica (Wolverhampton)

Strikers

Carl Veart (Crystal Palace)
Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)

Additionally Thomson has on standby, to be added to the above squad sometime tomorrow night, four of the following:

Paul Agostino (Bristol City)
Lucas Neill (Millwall)
Hayden Foxe (Ajax Amsterdam)
Shaun Murphy (Notts County)
Harry Kewell (Leeds United)

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Eddie Thomson late last night was still trying desperately to organise an adequate Australian squad of 16 players to do battle against Chile in Santiago next Tuesday.

A severely depleted mixed squad of European-based and domestic located players from Ericsson League clubs that are not challenging for the Top Six Series, will make up Australia's final squad.

Star internationals such as Steve Horvat, Mark Viduka, Tony and Aurelio Vidmar and Graham Arnold, although originally available for the Chilean clash when it was first arranged, by now cannot be released by their European clubs.

All now have matches to play due to previous bad winter conditions which affected their respective leagues.

Thomson frustratedly informed ABSW, "These are just some of the problems we have struck of late."

"I only wished we could have cancelled this match, but we cannot as we certainly don't want to lose face with Chile."

Another player that suddenly dropped out over the weekend from Thomson's plans was West Ham United's midfielder, Robbie Slater.

Slater suffered a severe wound to his leg in Hammers' 1-0 win over Bolton Wanderers.

Slater was stretchered off and rushed to hospital for an immediate operation to attach the calf muscle back onto the bone.

Further compounding Thomson's titanic problems is the fact that the Ericsson Cup is approaching a most crucial ending. The tightest seen for years. Consequently he has been forced to refrain from selecting any single player from the current leading seven clubs.

Thomson went on to add, "Of course I would have loved to have taken players such as Alex Tobin, Milan Ivanovic, Tony Popovic, Matthew Bingley, Damian Mori, etc."

"But all of them are heavily committed with their respective sides in attempting qualification for the Top Six."

"I've just got to do the best I can under these difficult circumstances."

Thomson also had originally drafted Morwell Falcons' experienced striker Warren Spink into his plans.

But Spink was injured over the weekend in the Falcons' away match against Sydney United.

Chile squad to play Australia on April 23

Goalkeepers

Nelson Tapia
Enrique Berrios

Defenders

Javier Margas
Miguel Ramirez
Gabriel Mendoza
Miguel Ardiman
Ronald Fuentes
Juan Carlos Gonzalez
Marcelo Miranda

Universidad Catolica
Cobreloa

Colo Colo
Real Sociedad (Spain)
Sao Paulo (Brazil)
Universidad Catolica
Universidad de Chile
Colo Colo
Cobreloa

Midfielders

Pablo Galdames
Esteban Valencia
Luis Musrri
Nelson Parraguez
Fabian Estay
Marcelo Vega

Universidad de Chile
Universidad de Chile
Universidad de Chile
Universidad Catolica
Toluca
Regional Atacama

Forwards

Ivan Zamorano
Claudio Nunez
Rodrigo Goldberg
Marcelo Salas
Sebastian Rozental

Real Madrid (Spain)
Santiago Wanderers
Universidad de Chile
Universidad de Chile
Universidad Catolica



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ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 30 - EASTER MONDAY (APRIL 8)

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 2 ADELAIDE CITY 4

BY DANE SKAFTE

Adelaide City came from behind to beat Newcastle Breakers 4-2 at Breakers Stadium.

Newcastle took the lead in the 15th minute thanks to Scott Thomas as he volleyed the ball into the net after receiving a square ball from Jason Bennett.

Adelaide continued to push forward late in the first half but could not penetrate the Newcastle defence.

Adelaide came out fired up in the second half and levelled the scores when midfielder Goran Lozanovski beat defender Andy Roberts and goalkeeper Adam Fittock to put the ball into the net.

Damian Mori scored his 29th goal of the season in the 63rd minute after a flick on from teammate Brad Hassell.



Adam Sanderson: scored at both ends.

The Breakers worries continued when defender Adam Sanderson knocked the ball into his own net in the 74th minute.

Adelaide put the issue beyond doubt when Brad Hassell scored

SCORERS: Newcastle: Thomas (15), Sanderson (82)
Adelaide: Lozanovski (55), Mori (63), Sanderson (74og), Hassell (78)

YELLOW CARDS: Adelaide: Foster (58), Brazzale (70)

POY: 3-Hassell (Adelaide)
2-Mori (Adelaide)
1-Thomas (Newcastle)

CROWD: 2,766

REFEREE: D Crawford

the fourth goal of the match in the 78th minute.

Newcastle got a consolation goal in the final minutes of the match after Adam Sanderson knocked in a ball from close range.

NEWCASTLE: Fittock, Sanderson, Hickman, Maier, Roberts (Johns 77), Sharpley (Lowe 72), Zane (Knott 81), Bennett, Thomas, Sprod, Ritchie.

ADELAIDE: Petkovic, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Hassell, Lozanovski, Costanzo, Mennillo, Brazzale (Salapadidis 78), Foster.

UTS OLYMPIC 1 SYDNEY UNITED 0

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

The crucial goal scored two minutes from fulltime by UTS Olympic's midfielder-cum-striker Kimon Taliadoros, ultimately proved to be enough to defeat Sydney United and earn his side arguably their three most vital League points of the season.

Following a goal drought for almost 14 weeks, this was the hard-working Taliadoros' second goal within 72 hours, having also scored away against South Melbourne on Easter Saturday.

A great lofted through-ball from Nick Meredith, found Taliadoros in the clear.

With admirable composure he calmly pushed through before delicately chipping the advancing Andrew Crews for the winner.

The first session ended very even despite Norman Tome hitting the right upright as early as the ninth minute and United's Manis Lamond ballooning his shot over the cross-bar five minutes later.

Scott Baillie, in the 74th minute, fired a rocketing drive from 30 metres and well on target, but his effort was solidly saved by Crews.

Mark Babic twice cleared almost certain goals off the United goal-line.

OLYMPIC: Gibson, Barrett, Ciantar, Poimer (Augerinos 79), Taliadoros, Tome (Ironsides 75), Trajanovski, Meredith, Blagojevic, Baillie Edwards.

SYDNEY UNITED: Crews, Kupresak, Popovic, M Babic, Moric, Milicic, Patikas, Zdrilic, Lamond (Aschner 84), Bilokapic, C Gibson.

SCORER: Olympic: Taliadoros (86)

YELLOW CARDS: Olympic: Meredith (12)
Sydney United: Popovic (30)

POY: 3-Poimer (Olympic)
2-M.Babic (Sydney United)
1-Meredith (Olympic)

CROWD: 8,672

REFEREE: B Hugo



Mike Gibson: Played his 250th game in the NSL.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 5 MORWELL FALCONS 1

Morwell coach Harry Bingham accused his players of "giving up" as title chasing Melbourne Knights thumped the Falcons 5-1.

Bingham was furious after his charges fell to double strikes from Andrew Marth and Joe Spiteri as well as a splendid solo goal from Damien Vojtek.

"We just didn't compete," said an angry Bingham. "We gave up before the second half even began."

The Knights piled up eight clear chances to Morwell's one in the opening 25 minutes with only bad luck, some fine work from Falcons' goalkeeper Jim Kourtis and a post thwarting a scoring spurge.

It took a thunderous volley from 18 metres by injury-troubled skipper Marth to put the Knights ahead after 28 minutes and he was on hand to make it 2-0 with a tap in from an Adrian Cervinski cross just eight minutes later.

Knights' coach Ian Dobson explained his team's explosive start by describing the competition for places in the starting lineup.

"We had a pep talk before the game and there is no doubt the players went out there hungry to do well."

The Knights continued their rampage after the break despite losing Olyroo midfielder Danny Tiatto to a recurring shoulder problem and Marth, who was substituted to rest his nagging injuries.

Two of the Knights' three substitutes made the score sheet, with Olyroo Joe Spiteri coming off the bench to score the first of his double in the 74th minute with a spinning shot which rolled in off the goalkeeper's outstretched fingertips.

Vojtek scored the goal of the game on 85th minutes with an elegant 20-metre drive which edged inside the far post to make it 4-0 and Spiteri blasted home another just seconds before the final whistle to complete what might have been an even more emphatic victory by the dominant home side.

KNIGHTS: Juric, DeAmicis, D Cervinski, Z Markovski, Marth (Vojtek 78), Simunic, Lapsansky, Kutlesovski (Spiteri 71), Tiatto (Buljubasic 59), A Cervinski, T Pondeljak.

MORWELL: Kourtis, Marcina, Canosa, Miller (Douglas 46), Tapai, Waddell, Bothwell, Talladria, Masi (Villani 23) (Reda 68), Spink, Mangos.

SCORERS: Knights: Marth (29, 37), Spiteri (74, 89), Vojtek (85)
Morwell: Tapai (88)
YELLOW CARDS: Morwell: Canosa (88)
POY: 3-Marth (Knight)
2-A. Cervinski (Knight)
1-De Amicis (Knights)
CROWD: 3,640
REFEREE: J Papanicolas

WOLLONGONG 2 WEST ADELAIDE 3

West Adelaide came from two goals down to beat Wollongong City 3-2 at Brandon Park.

It was a case of the Wolves handing out late Easter presents. The home team opened up in devastating fashion and led 2-0 after only 17 minutes through Mario Jermen (penalty) and Alvin Ceccoli but then showed an alarming lack of discipline.

The two turning points came on the half-hour — Wollongong lost key midfielder Sasho Dimoski injured and gave away a gift goal.

Dimoski had been outstanding but was forced to leave the field with a thigh strain.

West Adelaide's first goal came about after Wolves midfielder Tony Perinich gave the ball away cheaply under no real pressure.

Pablo Cordozo accepted the opportunity to run 25m towards goal and beat goalkeeper Brett Hughes with an angled shot.

It was 2-2 before the interval, Wollongong's defence opening up from a Robbie Hooker throw-in on the left. Jim Tsekenis strolled through to find the net from close range.

Inspired by Hooker, the visitors grabbed the winner in the 85th minute.

Replacement Reshat Mezensof arrived at the far post in time to head in a left-wing cross from Hooker.

West Adelaide coach Raul Blanco said his players had been lethargic early in the game but Wollongong had played very well.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said his team had been very disappointing after playing so well to start off.

SCORERS: Wollongong: Jermen (12pen), Ceccoli (17)
West: Cardozo (30), Tsekenis (33), Mezensof (85)

YELLOW CARDS: Wollongong: Lloyd (55)
West: Kokkinopitis (15), Slager (44)

POY: 3-Hooker (West)
2-Horsley (Wollongong)
1-Morrison (West)

CROWD: 2,422

REFEREE: S Micallef

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Petratos, Bourke, Horsley, Naumovski (Bonetig 85), Dimoski (Laybutt 30), Lloyd, Dihm, Jermen (Pollari 78), Perinich, Ceccoli.

WEST: Blazincic, Alagich, Kokkinopitis, Slager, Hooker, Cardozo, Aloisi (Mezensof 59), Morrison, Tsekenis (Lekkas 78), Day (Keramidas 60), Thorp.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 3 SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

Socceroo striker Francis Awaritefe provided the inspiration for Marconi Fairfield's 3-0 win over his former club South Melbourne.

The gangly forward set up all three of the Stallions' goals and tormented the Blues with his marauding runs down the right.

Awaritefe turned the game late in the first half by setting up goals for midfielders Matthew Bingley and Brendan Renaud in the 37th and 39th minutes respectively.

The dreadlocked dynamo snuffed out the Blues' hopes of a revival by creating a 65th minute goal for his striking partner Andy Harper.

Awaritefe almost got on the score sheet himself but saw his 73rd minute chip over goalkeeper Michael Petkovic cannon off the cross bar.

Awaritefe, who moved to Marconi from South Melbourne at the start of this season, netted a hat-trick against the Blues in round two and also goaled against them in the Cup.

The Stallions created almost all the clear-cut chances as they charged to their first win in four games.

South Melbourne appeared to be gaining the ascendancy after the break until Harper netted his 13th goal of the season after Awaritefe pulled the ball back from the byline.

Missing midfield maestro Mike Petersen and leading scorer Vaughan Coveny through injuries, the Blues lacked a cutting edge in

front of goal.

Marconi goalkeeper Bob Catlin made few actual saves and his chief duty consisted of cutting out crosses.

The Stallions could easily have scored three times before Bingley broke the deadlock.

Petkovic produced wonderful saves to deny Bingley and Harper while defender Luke Casserly saw his 20 metre left-foot curler clip the inside of a post.

MARCONI: Catlin, DeMarigny, Bingley, Casserly, Harper, Hristodoulou (Zoric 67), Maloney (Holst 88), Awaritefe, Souris, Renaud, Longo

SOUTH: M Petkovic, Blatsis, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos, Trimboli, Damianos (Nikolic 67), Knezevic (Sherifovski 70), Baser (Anthopoulos 24), Curcija, Muscat, Orlic.

SCORERS: Marconi: Bingley (35), Renaud (36), Harper (66)

YELLOW CARDS: Marconi: Harper (20), Hristodoulou (25)
South: Knezevic (23), Orlic (61)

POY: 3-Awaritefe (Marconi)
2-Longo (Marconi)
1-M. Petkovic (South)

CROWD: 4,371

REFEREE: C Diomis

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2 CANBERRA COSMOS 0

Brisbane Strikers consolidated their top six position with a hard fought 2-0 victory over Canberra Cosmos at Suncorp Stadium.

With Frank Farina sidelined with a knee injury, the Strikers had to battle hard for their goals and were set back even further midway through the first half when forward Rod Brown left the field following a nasty head clash with Paul Wade.

The match had a minor complication after just 18 minutes when a power failure blacked the stadium out for almost half an hour.

The visitors came out fighting after the delay and dominated the first period with some skilful attacking raids.

Canberra pressured the home side and was nearly rewarded after 36 minutes when a Michael Musitano free kick sailed dangerously across the face of goal straight to the feet of Jason Dunn. His volley, from just five metres, went harmlessly over the top.

It was Canberra who again took the initiative after the break, Musitano rounding Strikers defender Chris Zoricich and sending a pin-point cross for Lemezina, whose header was brilliantly saved by Bolton.

Bolton's save appeared to spur the Strikers on, the side creating a series of chances but lacking their usual thrust up front with Farina and Brown both missing.

However, Brisbane's

SCORERS: Brisbane: Polak (62), T Cranney (80)
YELLOW CARDS: Canberra: Dunn (37), Castro (64), T Popovich (86)
POY: 3-T. Cranney (Brisbane)
2-M. Lemezina (Canberra)
1-G. Phillips (Brisbane)
CROWD: 3,953
REFEREE: M Shields

persistence paid dividends in the 63rd minute, a hand ball by Paul Wade just outside the box presenting Jason Polak with a free kick that found the back of the net to give the Strikers a 1-0 lead.

The home side lifted another gear after Polak's goal and sealed the match with just nine minutes remaining.

A Gary Phillips corner was nodded on by Danny Wright to Troy Cranney, who slammed home his first goal of the season to give the Strikers victory.

BRISBANE: Bolton, Zoricich, Williams, Hunter (Tollenaere 83), Jackson, Phillips, Polak, Brown (Battistin 36), Wright, T Cranney, Ditton.

CANBERRA COSMOS: B Giannasca, Dee, Watson, Dunn, Wade, Perinovic, T Popovich, Castro (Dukic 83), Koch, Musitano (N Popovich 83), Lemezina.

GOALS WITH DEZ MARTON

National Youth League NORTHERN DIVISION

BY JOHN ECONOMOS.

Dez Marton, one of Australia's all-time great goalscorers, has at long last decided to pass on his invaluable and immense knowledge to all willing-to-learn youngsters on how to score goals by launching his "Goals 2002" Soccer Clinic.

Marton a wizard left-striker, who broke all goalscoring records with the great St George club in the early 80s with his lethal left foot, told ABSW last night, "I can see almost every week problems with goalscoring technique that many young strikers are experiencing and struggling with."

"With my new 'Goals 2002' Soccer Clinic, I will be teaching youngsters the correct art of scoring goals."

"I have set up the Clinic at Ador Park, on Ador Avenue at Rockdale for children, both boys and girls, over the age of 10, where I can teach the kids the fine art of scoring goals."

"The Soccer clinic will start on May 13 and go through for 12 weeks."

Arriving in Australia in 1981, with no English, he made his debut for St George in the NSW State League after the Saints had just been relegated from the NSL. Marton exploded open his St George golden career with a fabulous hat-trick in his very first match.

It didn't stop there as the mercurial Marton from the then

Yugoslavia, ended this first season in Australian Soccer nailing in an incredible 38 goals in just 26 matches. He had no communication problems with his team mates!

But even more astonishing was the fact that Marton often came off the bench and still he scored these 38 goals.

It was no wonder that Dez Marton at the end of that 1981 season was unanimously awarded the coveted Rothmans Medal as the best player in NSW.

You might say that 'sure but that was in the NSW State League'.

Well for Marton, playing in the NSL with the Saints the next season, made little difference to his deadly left scoring boot.

Over the next three consecutive seasons in the NSL, Marton's lethal left boot repeatedly recoiled like a Death Adder behind the ball to unleash no less than an incredible 101 stinging goals in less than 150 Cup and League matches to inscribe his name nation-wide for all time.

Marton's illustrious playing career is now well and truly over.

But his knowledge of the game and his command of the English language is stronger than ever.

Now the time has come for Dez Marton, by launching his 'Goals 2002' Soccer Clinic, compounded with his enormous experience, to impart all his valuable 'Marton-magic' knowledge to budding young strikers.

More information on "Goals 2002" can be obtained by calling Dez Marton on (02) 599-1855 between 8 am and 4 pm or Mobile 019-175-319.

(For further details, see advert on page 3.)



DEZ MARTON-Former St George 'Goal-scoring phenomenon'.

BY PETER KONSTO

UTS Olympic have consolidated their place in the top four thanks to an unexpected, yet highly deserved 2-0 win over current leaders Marconi Fairfield, at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday.

Two classy first half goals earned the three points for the home side but it was really their rock solid defence that denied Marconi even a sniff of a point.

In fact, the Olympic defence was almost impregnable. In most cases the attacking might of the Stallions, which had seen them score 87 times, was thwarted to such an extent that they resorted to hopeful long range shots.

Olympic opened the scoring in the 19th minute courtesy of some cool finishing by Nick Carle.

Olympic went further ahead in the 29th when a thirty metre volley from Raphael Bove gave Les Pogliacomo in the Marconi goal no chance.

Despite the loss Marconi remain top of the table. Olympic are looking good for the play offs.



LES SCHEINFLUG YOUTH CUP

ROUND 29

NSW ITC.....	1	QAS.....	3
ACT Academy.....	4	St George.....	0
Wollongong City.....	0	Marconi Fairfield.....	3
Parramatta Eagles.....	2	UTS Olympic.....	6
Blacktown City.....	0	Newcastle Breakers.....	3
Sydney United.....	2	AIS.....	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Marconi Fairfield	29	21	2	6	87	20	65
Sydney United	29	19	2	8	65	39	59
AIS	28	18	2	8	81	39	56
UTS Olympic	29	15	6	8	64	36	51
ACT Academy	28	15	4	9	55	50	49
Wollongong City	28	14	4	10	64	52	46
Qld Acad of Sport	27	14	3	10	69	39	45
Parramatta Eagles	29	9	8	12	47	64	35
Newcastle Breaker	29	10	3	16	41	54	33
Blacktown City	27	6	5	16	40	87	23
St George	26	3	2	21	22	85	11
NSW ITC	27	3	1	23	25	95	10

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PAUL SOURIS
Marconi Fairfield



Perin charges back for title

Zebras come home on wet sail

BY JOHN ECONOMOS.

JOHNNY PERIN, Adelaide City's intelligent and methodical 49 year old coach, has quietly but tenaciously rebuilt, blended and returned his squad to a level where he now has exploded the 'Black and Whites' into the Top Six.

Perin, the former, highly competitive Australian 1969 World Cup midfielder, engineered the 'Black and Whites' last Sunday night to serve urgent warning of their renewed form, fluency and authority by inflicting a merciless and revengeful, (if not ruthless) 5-0 thrashing on current League champions,



Melbourne Knights.

Revengeful, because the Knights were the team that dared and had the audacity to wound the South Australian aristocrats last season when they lifted the title from Adelaide City in the Grand Final.

Last Sunday's savage onslaught suffered by the Knights from "Perin's Piranhas" has now catapulted a revitalised Adelaide City to a threatening fourth spot on the League ladder, barely three points behind the twin-League leaders, Marconi and UTS Olympic.

The phlegmatic Perin,

early in the season, was left to suffer the indignity of inconsistent results by his now much depleted squad from last season.

Following the retirement of long serving coaching legend, Zoran Matic, Perin was left to takeover the precious reins of Adelaide City.

When installed as Matic's successor, the humble Perin could only then lament to ABSW: "What chance do I have?"

"It's like singing after Frank Sinatra."

But now the former unyielding international Perin, is doing it 'His Way' and effectively so..

Compounded with the massive loss of playing strength following the always expected departure of three key players, the 'Black and Whites' now are ready to strongly challenge for the League championship with real venom.

The Zebras was left severely dented, battered and bruised with the departure from last season's Grand Final machine of Sergio Melta, Tony Vidmar, Joey Mullen, and later Carlo Talladira.

Their departure left a huge vacuum which early on brought the 'Black and Whites' eight defeats, losses in stability, as well as diminishment in respect and authority.

NEW BLOOD

How does a coach replace the irreplaceable, mercurial and most resilient hardened professional of the calibre of Sergio Melta (retired), the powerhouse raiding down the flank of international left defender Tony Vidmar (sold to Dutch club NAC Breda), and the midfield steel of Joey

Mullen?

Slowly but surely Perin has re-organised his squad, methodically injecting new players including the bleeding of some exciting youngsters, to a level where Adelaide City is now ready to stand up and be feared.

Striker Bradley Hassell since being dropped by Eddie Thomson from Australia's Olympic team has worked and fought very hard to bounce back to his very best form..

Not only has Hassell scored 12 valuable League goals so far but more importantly has matured and graduated to a level where he now is a creative-foil for his

of Mark Brazzale, the bleeding of exciting youngsters such as midfielder-cum-defender Angelo Costanzo, attacking midfielder-trio, Dino Minello, Kosta Salapasis and Jamie Perin, plus the midfield-fire power thrust from the more experienced Craig Foster, (to date eight precious goals), as well as the supply of quality crosses from the right by the Olympic team's Goran Lozanovski, have all been efficiently blended and welded together by Perin into a strong, disciplined unit.

If that wasn't enough, let's not forget the huge experience holding together

free-back Milan Ivanovic, stand defiantly stronger than ever.

In fact despite Adelaide five goal demolition of the Knights last Sunday, Man Of The Match by many experts at Hindmarsh Stadium was agreed to be Ivanovic who started everything with his immaculate distribution.

GOALS GALORE.

With the seemingly unstoppable record breaker, Mori spearheading the League's goalcharts with a massive personal tally of 31 to date, Adelaide City are also the League's heaviest scoring side with a total of 64 goals.

This goal avalanche has yielded the 'Black and Whites' in turn a most creditable goal-difference of plus 27, as an insurance-buffer should things go down to the wire on Sunday week.

It certainly looks that Perin is doing it 'His Way' and very well at that.

With just two League rounds remaining for City, (away this week to Morwell Falcons and home the following week to Sydney United) Perin is now ambitiously but quietly hungry to end his campaign in second spot.

"Yes we have found our balance and created some depth, and yes we are starting to play some good, organised stuff lately.

"But had Marconi beaten Sydney Olympic last Sunday night they would have done us a very big favour," stated Perin from Adelaide late last



John Perin: "It's like singing after Frank Sinatra."

strike-partner and Australia's leading goal-ace, Damian Mori.

The bringing in of sturdy defender Brad Armour, the introduction in the midfield

the entire Adelaide City ship from the back.

The towering World Cup authoritative defending duo in skipper and centre-back Alex Tobin with elegant

Learn how to do it

BY BOB BROOKS

All sports clubs have to be run efficiently and what they offer, sold to potential sponsors and the public, in an effective manner.

Generally the people carrying out these tasks are doing them on a spare time basis. However more of these soccer organisations are employing staff initially part time, a few hours a week, but aiming towards full time.

The people involved have usually gently felt their way, learning as they go.

This has proved frustrating and less than satisfying to everyone concerned.

In 1981, a NSW State Government department ran some courses aimed at addressing this area. They ran for about five weeks, two hours each session, once a week.

The basketball organisers spoke one evening for about 40 minutes. They revealed their plans for the sport. At that time the game was played in a haphazard fashion in a similar way to badminton.

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See the advertisements on this page on how to enrol on the existing courses.

night.

"Olympic are now three clear points ahead of us in second spot but we are still in the hunt.

"We are aiming to finish this season as high on the League-ladder as we possibly can.

"Sure the Knights had Danny Tiarro sent off against us last Sunday at Hindmarsh Stadium. But how often do teams that are a man down inspired to play harder and even go ahead and finish up winning?" asked Perin.

"I originally had young Dino Minello marking him but after Tiarro departed I pushed him upfront on the left flank as a support-

player.

"We scored early (that man Mori again) and forced them to come at us. Regularly we caught them out.

"This week however against the Falcons we could be missing central marker, Mark Yates who is in doubt with a thigh muscle injury

"If that proves to be the case then I could bring into that spot young Angelo Costanzo to do the job.

"We could even be without Damian (Mori), with a pending suspension," ended Adelaide City's coach.

Make no mistake the 'Black and Whites' are back.



Angelo Costanzo: An Adelaide City young gun.

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Frank Arok dismissed

BY PAUL MILLAR
OF AAP

Former Soccerroo coach Frank Arok was axed by struggling South Melbourne last Friday, but instead of being bitter he farewelled the former national league power by thanking the club for two years of memories.

"It's a spiteful business this, and that's unfortunate but somebody must be blamed always when there's a failure and in this case it's me," he said.

Arok had already been planning to sign a bagful of new players for next season, but with only three games of this season left to play, his blueprint was torn up.

When he joined the club two years ago he was seen as the man capable of recapturing past glories for South.

But the club's board of directors made it clear that its patience had run out with the outspoken coach, voting unanimously not to re-appoint him for next season.



Arok will not even see out the season with South as the club has decided to make Arok's assistant Angie Postecoglou the caretaker coach.

Arok refused to blame a lack of funds for South's poor performance this season.

The club moved to a new ground this year, limiting funds for players and at times the side struggled to find adequate training facilities.

"All the problems I had mean nothing, it's the end result that counts," Arok said.

But the coach, who said he has never been sacked in his career before, conceded it was a financial decision to dump him.

"The results are not satisfactory for a big club

like this and I picked the players. It did not work in the end and somebody had to pay for it, unfortunately it was me," he told AAP.

While Arok's future with the club officially ended it was the 3-0 Easter Monday loss to his old club Marconi that sealed his fate.

The defeat not only ended South's hopes of making the finals but Arok's tenure as coach.

Club general manager Peter Filopoulos put the case for Arok's sacking simply.

"It's based on the results of the club and our customers were not happy with those results and somebody had to wear the brunt of the blame," Filopoulos said.

"The results speak for themselves, it's the first time since 1988 that we have missed the top six."

Arok said he had too much energy to stay out of the game for too long.

"I'm not bitter about this, I've had two beautiful years with this club and there have been some good memories too," he said.



Frank Arok: Leaves with many happy memories and no bitterness.

Carter Returns After Lengthy Layoff

BY JAI MCDERMOTT

Controversial Newcastle Breakers goalkeeper Craig Carter should make his return in the Ericsson Cup this week. The colourful custodian is itching to come back after missing over a month through suspension.



Carter was outed indefinitely by the Breakers Football board following an incident during the round 22 clash with South Melbourne.

Five weeks later he has been cleared to play again, as Breakers publicity officer Shane Johnson explained during the week.

"The football board met last week and decided to reinstate Carter to the squad.

It was agreed by both the Breakers and Soccer Australia that he (Carter) had been punished sufficiently and no further action will be taken. Thankfully the issue is now finished and Carts can put it all behind him," Johnson said.

Carter's return will give coach John Kosmina plenty to think about when naming his first choice team.

Newcastle has conceded many goals over the past month, including eight in the last two home games. However Carter's replacement, youngster Adam Fittock has performed well in his absence and should make it hard for him to regain his spot straight away.

This weekend sees the Breakers in their last home game of the season. The round 32 clash puts Newcastle against traditional rivals Wollongong City.

The Steel Cities clash will take on special significance this time around.

The loser should take away the dreaded wooden spoon. Breakers publicity officer Shane Johnson was under no illusions as to the importance of a result.

"Obviously the wooden spoon is one trophy we are desperate to avoid. We will be conducting a pretty intense promotional campaign in the lead-up to the game to get the city out to support the team. The team will be desperate to win and give the fans some positive feeling towards next season," Johnson said.

Most of the Breakers will be looking forward to the end of the season.

Due to the confusion over the Newcastle club's future in recent years most of the current squad has played at least 18 months straight.



Clayton Zane: Hoping to impress for inclusion in Olyroo squad.

Once the season is over the Breakers will enjoy a two month layoff with no contracted players permitted to play during the break.

Pre-season training for the 1996-97 season is scheduled to begin in mid July.

The season is not over yet, particularly for youngsters Clayton Zane and Pete Ritchie. Both will be looking for strong performances in the final rounds to remind national coaches Les Scheinflug and Eddie Thomson of their international aspirations.

With the mid-season training camps scrapped because of scheduling problems, young hopefuls will be gauged largely by

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

LIONS SCRAPE HOME IN OPENER

Stirling Macedonia's march toward a hat-trick of league titles started shakily at Kingsway Reserve last Saturday, with a hard fought 2-1 win over newly promoted Olympic Kingsway who missed a late penalty.

The Stirling club were on the back foot even before the opening whistle with their goalkeeper Gary Whyatt, star midfielder Steve Bourne and stopper Andy Wright all ineligible to play because they missed the resigning deadline for the opening fixture. This was on top of a midweek set-back involving midfielder Paul McVittie who has left Macedonia for the Bayswater Panthers because of a pay dispute.

After an uninspiring first-half, when the only scoring opportunity fell to Abdul Kamara just before the interval, new signing Peter Murphy broke the deadlock in the 54th minute with a debut goal, after some quality work from Paul Lincoln.

But the Olympic side retaliated with one of their own ten minutes later, through player-of-the-match Jamie Afkos who finished off

a James Mander centre with a strike on the turn that found the mark just inside an upright.

However, the visitors regained the lead seven minutes later, when Murphy sent a tricky ground shot from their left flank inside to Lincoln who swiftly drilled it past Peter Evans.

In the 75th minute, Olympic had a chance to draw level when a high tackle by Tommy Farrell on Michael Johnson provided them with a penalty, but Afkos struck the spot-kick too weakly, enabling stand-in keeper Bill Todorovski time to block.

FALCONS SWOOP ON FLOREAT

Inglewood Falcons, bridesmaids to league champions Stirling Macedonia for the past two seasons, started their campaign in positive fashion, with a 3-1 victory over Floreat Athena at the Lake Monger Velodrome.

Falcons turned out with new signings - forwards John Hunter and Ian Ballantyne under new coach and former Floreat striker Paul Wormely, while Athena welcomed back Vas Kalegeracos from England and former Perth player John Carbone. They too

have a new name at the helm - former NSL coach of the year Jim Pyrgiolis.

Because of the stamp sized pitch, it was inevitable the attacking style of both sides would produce plenty of goalmouth activity. But it was the slick passing game by the visitors which eventually proved the difference.

Tall Craig Deans and Kalegeracos for Floreat, and Inglewood's Trim Morgan and Hunter, all had strong chances in the first half, but were denied by class goalkeeping from John Xigas (Floreat) and Darren Goldsworthy.

It was the home side who eventually took the lead thirteen minutes into the second-half when a Carbone corner was superbly headed home by Doug Ithier.

But the Falcons responded in devastating fashion with three goals in a five minute burst. The first coming from Hunter in the 73rd minute when he headed home a Paul Strudwick long throw, the next came from a 77th minute free-kick through Ian Ballantyne who came on for Scott Daley ten minutes earlier.

With Athena still in defensive distress, Morgan scored Inglewood's third a minute later by way of a precision pass from Ballantyne.

"Because of the pitch, we

had to play a little more direct" said Wormley. "It was pleasing to see we kept our heads after going a goal down, and equally satisfying to have my three forwards on the scoresheet".

GLORY TALKS WITH CLIVE ALLEN

London nomad Clive Allen, could be the Perth Glory's first major Ericsson Cup signing if current talks prove successful.

Glory chairman Nick Tana is in London and has reportedly arranged to have discussions with the prolific goalscorer who turns 35 later this month.

Allen, who was in Perth with QPR in 1983, is currently training at West Ham, but is a free agent. He

has played with six London clubs, as well as French club Bordeaux and Manchester City - his fourth million pound transfer.

He is the son of former QPR and Tottenham striker Les Allen.

Meanwhile, Glory are still looking for a place they can call home. They were initially booked for the Lake Monger Velodrome, but a protest from nearby residents has forced them to look elsewhere. The former Perth Heat baseball venue Parry Field, is now their next option but once again, have come under fire from protesting neighbours.

"Rest assured, together with the assistance of the Minister of Sport, we will definitely find a suitable venue in time for next season" said their General Manager Roger Lefort.

PREMIER DIVISION			
Swan IC.....	0	Sorrento.....	1
Olympic Kingsway.....	1	Stirling Macedonia.....	2
Western Knights.....	1	Perth S.C.....	2
Spearwood Dalmatinac.....	0	Bayswater Panthers.....	1
Floreat Athena.....	1	Inglewood Falcons.....	3
RESERVES			
Swan IC.....	2	Sorrento.....	3
Olympic Kingsway.....	4	Stirling Macedonia.....	2
Western Knights.....	1	Perth S.C.....	2
Spearwood Dalmatinac.....	2	Bayswater Panthers.....	1
Floreat Athena.....	3	Inglewood Falcons.....	0
DIVISION ONE			
Bassendean Caledonian.....	3	Joondalup City.....	3
Perth City.....	2	North Lake Espanol.....	0
Morley Windmills.....	5	Cockburn United.....	2
Southside United.....	0	Balcatta.....	1
Fremantle City.....	3	Dianella White Eagles.....	1

WOLLONGONG

Lloyd great utility player

BY PHIL MURPHY



Utility player Richard Lloyd had an outstanding game when Wollongong drew with Marconi last week.

With Ian Pollari suspended, coach Nick Theodorakopoulos switched Lloyd from the centre of midfield to a marker role.

He was assigned to Marconi striker Francis Awaritefe and ruined Francis' evening.

Lloyd blotted the big fellow out of the action so much that coach Manfred Schaefer replaced him near the end.

"I think Francis was getting frustrated so I called him off," Schaefer said.

A school teacher, Lloyd is one of the longest serving players at Brandon Park but walked out at one stage last season.

He decided he wasn't getting a fair go from coach David Ratcliffe and quit.

"I realise now it was the wrong thing to do," Lloyd told ABSW.

"I was just angry with what was happening to me at the time.

"Since I have come back in to the national league, I realise Dave (Ratcliffe) was doing his job the best way he could.

"It is a mistake I won't make again."

Lloyd played with Illawarra Lions in the NSW State League during the winter and will return to them at the end of the Ericsson Cup season.

He was with Melita's Under 19 team when he was signed by Wollongong club Fairy Meadow and progressed to the Wolves senior squad.

While with the club, he has played every position except goalkeeper.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos rates Lloyd highly and said he was outstanding against Marconi.

"He really stood up to be counted in the game," Theodorakopoulos said.

"I have thought he had done well for me in the centre of midfield and he can also handle the sweeper role.

"Richard is certainly a handy player to have around."

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos doesn't know if the club board wants him to stay on next season.

He will probably find out within the next two weeks.

Theodorakopoulos has done a fine job since taking over at Christmas.

He is keen to stay on and is confident the side will be closer to the top of the league next season than the bottom.

The signing of exciting midfielder Sonny Sevin from Morwell will certainly improve the team and it is felt that signing will attract other players to Brandon Park.

Sevin's Morwell team-mate Carlo Talladira is reported to be keen to transfer to Wollongong.

Other clubs which have struggled in the past have improved their fortunes by signing a couple of quality players.

That in itself can bring other players to the club.

The Wolves board are in a reasonable financial situation after the recent transfer of Robbie Middleby to Germany.

Directors are keen to chat with any players seeking "fame and fortune" and a great lifestyle close to beaches.

ADELAIDE CITY

Prediction by Arok fallen flat

BY PETER KRUPKA



An early season prediction by sacked South Melbourne coach Frank Arok that Adelaide City would struggle this season looks to have fallen flat before the minor round has finished.

While the season was far from over, it was a resurgent Zebras which looked likely to have the last laugh on the out-of-finals-contention Blues, but Adelaide City boss John Perin, coy about his side's chances should they make the finals, saw some merit in Arok's comments.

"We never really planned to get as far as we already have with the resources we've had available," Perin said.

"Luckily we're ahead of schedule and if things go well, we can go even better."

After South Melbourne beat Adelaide City 2-1 in round three at Hindmarsh last October, Arok declared the Zebras would struggle until they found

replacements for their stars like Tony Vidmar, Sergio Melta and Joe Mullen.

While City has promised to recruit two or three players from overseas before the start of the next campaign to give it a better chance of snaring a fourth title, the Zebras are again in finals contention without recruiting a big name player.

"We know that we're two or three players short of winning a championship and whatever comes along this year is a bonus as far as we're concerned," Perin said.

Many may question Perin's comments about the club he knows expects

nothing but success.

"I'm gauging the measure of our success on what we're producing and the results we're getting with the resources we've got available," he said.

"People still say the season's disastrous because we lost all those games.

"From my point of view it's not (disastrous). But I'm not the one who judges those things."

Few doubt much of Adelaide City's success this season has been the form of striker Damian Mori, who has become South Australia's highest profile soccer player during his record breaking season.

Zebras fans will be on tenterhooks until they know what the goal ace's future playing plans are.

He has already been approached by National League "money" clubs Marconi and South Melbourne but Perin stressed the club would do all it could within the confines of its "tight budget" to hang onto domestic soccer's hottest



Damian Mori: Domestic soccer's hottest property.

property.

"We know he's had approaches...clubs would be foolish not to approach him," Perin said.

"Whether or not he'd score 30 goals for another

team would be a different question."

"We'd like to keep him but I guess it's going to come down to dollars and if we can't match the dollars, then bad luck."

WEST ADELAIDE

Cardozo staying or going home?

BY PETER KRUPKA

West Adelaide striker Pablo Cardozo will consider moving back to Sydney when his contract with the Sharks expires at the end of the season.

The Sharks recruited the 23-year-old from Sydney Olympic in late 1993 and after two and half years away from his parents and younger brother, Cardozo was weighing up his options.

"I'll just have to wait until the off-season and go back to Sydney and think about things," said Cardozo who spends each winter with his family.

"I'm not sure whether I would want to stay here or go back to Sydney.

A disgruntled Cardozo left Olympic, where he was a fringe player, to be given a decent crack at the national league by Sharks chief Raul Blanco.

Despite his unquestioned respect for Blanco, it may be the coach's departure from the club next season (to take up the job as Olyroo coach) and the elevation of Adrian Santrac to senior coach which could keep the young striker in Adelaide.

"I wouldn't mind going home but I really like Adelaide and Adrian Santrac so I'll let it pan out and see what happens next season," he said.

Cardozo was recruited on the recommendation of West Adelaide captain Robbie Hooker and former defender George Haniotis, who were team-mates with the youngster at Olympic.



West Adelaide coach Raul Blanco.

In the absence of injured forwards Jose Iriarte and Cyrille Ndongo-Keller, Cardozo has joined forces with Jim Tsekis to become a potent striking combination for the Sharks.

"Obviously we weren't

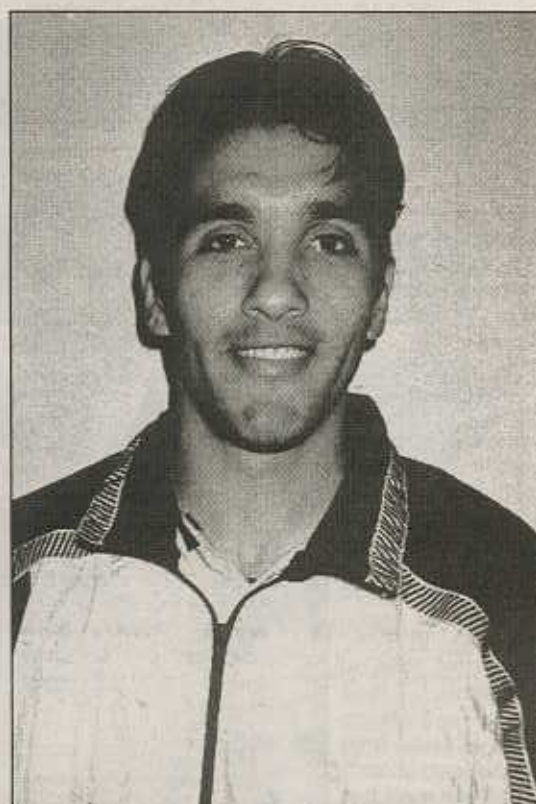


the preferred strike force which was Cyrille and Jose and that probably helped us because it took away the pressure off us knowing we were the number one strike force," he said.

A form slump during the National League's second round of matches saw him dropped from the squad but apart from that, Cardozo has been happy with his effort this season.

Having witnessed the improved professionalism of the Sharks on and off the pitch first hand, Cardozo regretted the club, through injury and transfers, had so much trouble getting a consistent side.

"We haven't had a stable 11 for two years because so many players have come and



Pablo Cardozo: Joined forces with Jim Tsekis to become potent strike force.

gone," he said.

"The majority of the side we have now wasn't the starting 11 we had last year.

"If anything, it's just now that we are starting to blend."

MATCH REPORTS



Grand Final Heroes do it again for Olympic

UTS OLYMPIC 2 MARCONI FAIRFIELD 1

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

UTS Olympic by defeating League leaders Marconi 2-1 last Sunday night before a huge crowd of almost 12,000 at Leichhardt Oval, lifted themselves back into joint leadership to once again become serious title contenders in the Top Six play-offs starting in three weeks.

The mega-crowd were well rewarded for their attendance, being treated to three spectacular goals plus a heap of near-misses.

A magnificent 'bomb' hit from almost 25 metres by Marconi's specialist long-range shooting midfielder Eric Hristodoulou in the 22nd minute, lifted Marconi

to a very well-deserved 1-0 halftime lead with the home team looking well beaten.

But two life-saving, and most spectacular second half goals scored by left-midfielder, Alistair Edwards and giant substitute targetman Robbie Ironside, swung the match plus all three League points back to of Olympic.

It was ironically Edwards and Ironside who gave Olympic a 2-0 victory in the 1990 Grand Final.

It was an especially gratifying match for former New Zealand captain, Ironside, who scored the winner with his first touch of the ball four minutes after coming on as sub a tiring Derek Poimer.

Ironside who all season has been sidelined and plagued by injuries, showed tremendous character and tenacity to plug away to get back into the team.

Ironside's moment of reward and glory for his unyielding drive, arrived in



Walter Ardone: His influence was decisive in Olympic's victory.

the 82nd minute following a corner struck in from the left by Man Of The Match, Walter Ardone. With a late and blind run into the Marconi box, Ironside lunged his herculean frame over the top of star-defender Dominic Longo to crash an outstanding header into the

target.

Six minutes after the break, Olympic had equalised through a spectacular, almost Van Basten-style goal by Edwards.

Holding possession well outside the box on the left, Edwards was looking to whip in a cross to a striker.

Edwards later explained to ABSW: "I could only see striker Kris Trajanovski who was well marked anyway. So I elected to smash a powerful shot on target towards the first post where Marconi's goalkeeper Bobby Catlin was positioned. Catlin could only deflect the rocketing missile with his right glove onto the cross-bar from where the ball bounced down and back-spun into the net despite attacking left midfielder Brendan Renaud's valiant effort to clear out," Edwards reflected.

Olympic could have led as early as in the seventh minute when a flat square ball into the goal area fired

SCORERS: Olympic: Edwards (51), Ironside (82) Marconi: Hristodoulou (22)
YELLOW CARDS: Olympic: Ardone (40) Marconi: (Longo 36), De Marigny (56), Hristodoulou (78)
POY: 3-Ardone (Olympic)
2-Bingley (Marconi)
1-Poimer (Olympic)
CROWD: 11,897
REFEREE: E. Lennie

in by midfielder Walter Ardone was deflected by striker Kimon Taliadoros (playing his 200th NSL match), just wide of the base of the right post, whilst at the other end three minutes later, Marconi's striker Matthew Bingley sent in a tame shot from point-blank range which Olympic's goalkeeper Mike Gibson easily gathered in.

Marconi's midfield quartet of Luke Casserly, Brad Maloney, Eric

Hristodoulou and Vlado Zoric were fluent, well organised and totally outplayed Olympic's in the first session to dominate proceedings.

The away side threatened Olympic in the 19th minute when ball-playing midfielder Zoric threaded his way past two defenders on the byline and near the post. But just as Maloney looked set to score, was denied by a clearing tackle by central marker Scott Baillie.

Marconi's right midfielder Casserly also went close when shaving the far post in the 32nd minute, as did Zoric whose header in the 60th minute was headed off the line by Ardone.

A disturbed and justifiably unhappy Marconi coach Manfred Schaefer, after having watched his team squander their well-deserved lead, evaluated: "We were just not hungry enough in the second half and we should have led by two or three goals at the break. We

helped them score the first goal and as far as the second goal was concerned it shouldn't have been a corner in the first place".

But Olympic's coach David Ratcliffe retaliated by stating: "I thought that when they stopped making their attacking runs in the second half they lost it.

"Ironside has always had his heart for the Club and the situation now has become very interesting. They battered us in the first session especially in the midfield but we showed the courage needed to come back".

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gibson: Barrett, Ciantar, Baillie, Blagojevic, Edwards: Taliadoros (Tome 67), Ardone, Meredith: Trajanovski, Poimer (Ironside 78).

MARCONI: Catlin: Longo, Souris, De Marigny: Casserly (Van Egmond 72), Maloney, Hristodoulou (Stanton 78), Zoric, Renaud: Awaritefe, Bingley.

Canberra squander chances but win

CANBERRA COSMOS 2 NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

BY GRAHAM COOKE
OF AAP

Canberra Cosmos coach Mike Lyons said his first priority during the winter is the signing of an "out and out goal scorer" and anyone who watched last weekend's 2-0 national league win over Newcastle Breakers will understand why.

While Cosmos did manage its second victory in 16 league games, there were enough chances created for it to reach double figures.

But the small crowd agonised through some woeful finishing, as Tony Lemezina, Michael Musitano, Paul Wade and Jason Dunn all failed from scoreable situations.

The two goals that did come both contained elements of good fortune. With a minute to go before the interval, Lemezina drove a powerful shot low and hard past



Paul Wade: Just one of Canberra players who couldn't finish.

SCORERS: Canberra: Hickman (44og), Lemezina (69)
YELLOW CARDS: Newcastle: Bennett (64), Hickman (69)
POY: 3-Lemezina (Canberra)
2-Dunn (Canberra)
1-Thomas (Newcastle)
CROWD: 1,521
REFEREE: J Fraser

Newcastle goalkeeper Adam Fittock.

Glen Sprod, back on his goal line, got a foot to the ball only to see it cannon off the face of fellow defender Steve Hickman and back into the net.

Then midway through the second half a through-ball from John Koch to Lemezina caught the Newcastle defence standing still and appealing for offside.

Lemezina pushed the ball too far ahead and virtually into the arms of Fittock but the goalkeeper refused to accept the present, letting it bounce back into Lemezina's path and this time the striker made no mistake.

"At least we are creating the chances, and that's half the battle," Lyons said.

"But while Lemezina had one of his best games, we really do need someone else with a natural ability to put goals away."

CANBERRA: Giannasca, Dee, Watson, Dunn, Wade, Kelly, Lemezina, Castro, Koch, Musitano, Mazis.

NEWCASTLE: Fittock, Sanderson, Hickman, Maier, Roberts, Zane, Bennett, Thomas (Sharpley 71), Pryce, Sprod (Lowe HT), Ritchie.

Wolves bad luck continues

WOLLONGONG CITY 0 BRISBANE CITY 0

BY PHIL MURPHY

It was a case of so near and yet so far once again for bottom-of-the-league Wollongong at Brandon Park on Friday night.

The 1-0 loss to Brisbane was the latest in a run of nine games in which they have had no luck. Since a 1-0 away loss to Morwell, the Wolves record has been: Adelaide City 3-3, Canberra 0-1, Sydney United 0-1, South Melbourne 1-2, UTS Olympic 0-1, Marconi 0-0, West Adelaide 2-3 and Brisbane 0-1.

In steady rain on Friday night, Brisbane absorbed plenty of pressure from the home team before Frank Farina grabbed their winner after 71 minutes. It was a typical Brisbane goal.

Troy Cranney got the ball to Rod Brown in the box, Brown headed it down and Farina found that metre of space he needed to beat goalkeeper Brett Hughes.

Under the circumstances, Brisbane coach Bruce Stowell would probably have been happy to head off home with a point.

After the game, he said it had been a miserable night and in the conditions he was happy with three points.

"We kept battling away and in the end we got the win," the coach said.

In the other dressing room, Wolves boss Nich

SCORER: Farina (71).
YELLOW CARD: Wollongong: Dimoski (23).
POY: 3- Jackson (B)
2-Naumovski (W)
1-Ceccoli (W)
CROWD: 1,869.
REFEREE: C Naumcevski.

Theodorakopoulos said his players had again dictated the trend of a game and got nothing for it.

"At times we played them (Brisbane) off the park," Theodorakopoulos said.

"We created five very good chances but at the end of the day didn't take them."



Steve Jackson: Captain's game inspired his team.

Once again Wollongong lacked a player with the initiative to put his body on the line inside the goal area.

That has been the case most of the season and has cost the team vital points.

Left fullback Alvin Ceccoli went close with two great individual efforts — one in each half.

Both times the ball flashed just wide of the woodwork.

Right on half-time, Brad Ditton did well to test Hughes with a low shot, the keeper making a good save and the ball then struck the right post and was cleared.

For Brisbane, the three points could prove vital.

In the second half, Brisbane goalkeeper Clinton Bolton was far busier than Hughes and his work from crosses in the conditions was exceptional. The Wolves must now shape up to Newcastle at Breakers Stadium on Friday night in what will be the battle for bottom spot.

Theodorakopoulos said his team certainly doesn't deserve to finish on the bottom.

"Wollongong have beaten Newcastle twice (2-1 and 4-1) this season and we are playing well enough to get a result," the coach said.

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Gjakovski (Sterjovski 80), Petratos, Bourke, Horsley, Naumovski, Dimovski (Jermen 51), Perinich, Lloyd (Pollari 52), Dihm, Ceccoli.

BRISBANE: Bolton, Zoricich, Williams, Jackson, Phillips, Farina, Polak (Hews 85), Brown, Cranney, Ditton (Wright 60), Gwynne (Battistin 80).

South spoil Sharks aspirations

**STH MELB 2
WEST
ADELAIDE 1**

BY CON STAVROS

West Adelaide's chances of making the playoffs look increasingly shaky after they fell to a new attitude South Melbourne on the weekend.

The Blues, who have no chance of making the finals, chalked up their first win under caretaker coach Angie Postecoglou, who took over from sacked coach Frank Arok last Friday.

The Sharks slipped out of the top six following their loss and have to face UTS Olympic and Marconi in the final two rounds of the competition.

Missing key forwards Jim Tsekenis and Cyrille Ndongo-Keller, the visitors

SCORERS: South: Damianos (6), Anthopoulos (62)
West: Cardozo (20)
YELLOW CARDS: South: Curcija (86)
West: Kokkinopitis (68)
POY: 3-Muscat (South)
2-Damianos (South)
1-Cardozo (West)
CROWD: 3,772
REFEREE: D Crawford

failed to test the almost perpetually shaky South defence, despite coming back from an early goal to be level at half-time.

South took the lead in the sixth minute, with midfielder Bill Damianos firing home a cross from Steve Panopoulos. Damianos needed two swings to score, virtually missing the ball entirely on his first attempt, and then firing home into the top corner from just outside the box.

South Melbourne's

winning goal in the 62nd minute was a similar blast from distance, with a rejuvenated Con Anthopoulos finishing a great run through the middle of the field with a sizzling strike from almost thirty metres out.

West Adelaide had pulled level in the 19th minute through its best player on the night Pablo Cardozo, who managed to chip goalkeeper Michael Petkovich from well outside the box.

The seemingly speculative attempt paid dividends when Petkovich stumbled whilst back peddling on the soggy turf and couldn't parry the ball over the bar successfully.

The win for South painted a pretty end to a difficult week that saw the demise of Frank Arok after almost two seasons at the helm. Arok was given until the end of this season to clear his desk, but chose to leave three weeks early,

handing the reigns to assistant coach Angie Postecoglou.

A former South captain, Postecoglou wasn't speculating on the possibility of him beating out Zoran Matic or Eddie Krncevic for the prized job, when a decision is made at the end of the season.

"That is for someone else to decide," said Postecoglou on the vacancy he would dearly love to fill.

"Put it this way, if we win the last three matches it is not going to hinder my cause. I'm just concentrating on finishing the season on a good note though for the club, because we've had a terrible season so far."

Postecoglou made an immediate impact on team formation, strengthening the midfield with Kevin Muscat and restoring Anthopoulos and Con Blatsis to their preferred

full-back roles.

"We've lacked some leadership in midfield over the past few games and that's why I put Kevin in there," said Postecoglou of the move that saw the Socceroo turn in a clear best-on-ground performance.

West Adelaide's only real chance to pull level again came in the 70th minute, with Nathan Day sending a back-header just wide of the post after a cross from Ross Aloisi.

The Sharks seemed to lose the midfield battle at crucial times throughout the contest despite Aloisi shining as the match wore on. Their best chance always looked like coming from a South Melbourne error as the accident prone backline sent hearts fluttering amongst their fans several times with poor or dangerous clearances under pressure.

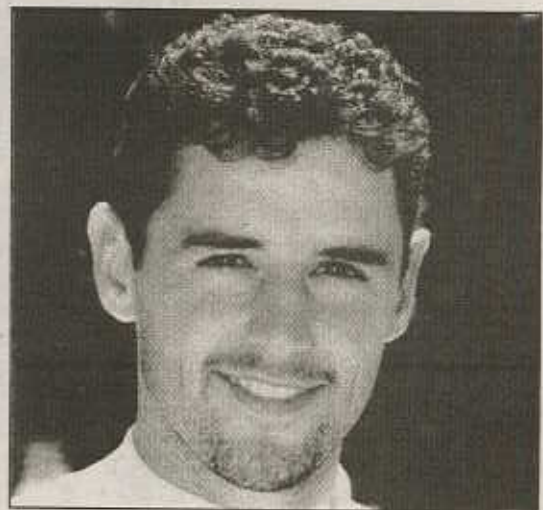
With a Tsekenis or Ndongo-Keller needed to

take advantage, the Sharks looked surprisingly unimaginative considering how much was at stake.

**S O U T H
MELBOURNE:** M Petkovic, Blatsis, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos (Sheriofovski 77), Trimboli (Nikolic 90), Anthopoulos,

Damianos, Knezevic, Baser, Allsopp (Curcija 81), Muscat.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Alagich, Kokkinopitis, Slager, Hooker, Tibaldi, Cardozo, Aloisi, Morrison, (Mezensof 64), Day, Keramidis (Lekkas 58).



Kevin Muscat: His man of the match performance came from midfield.

United stay in contention

**SYDNEY
UNITED 2
MORWELL
FALCONS 1**

BY JOHN KIDMAN
THROUGH AAP

Sydney United's goalkeeper Andrew Crews produced an outstanding last-minute save to hand his side a 2-1 victory over Morwell Falcons clash at Sydney Croatian Sports Centre last Sunday.

With only seconds remaining, Crews was able to deflect skywards a header from Falcons substitute Carlo Villani, and revive United's finals hopes.

The win ensures the Crows stay in touch with the leading pack, on 50 points, with two rounds remaining.

"It was a super save but I just wish it didn't have to come down to the last moment for us," said a relieved United coach Branko Culina.

"We had probably six or seven chances that we didn't take during the game and really should have punished them well before Andrew's effort."

United got away to a flying start through attacking midfielder David Zdrilic, who flicked the ball under Falcons keeper Jim Kourtis in the 15th minute following some smart lead up from playmaker Robert Enes.

The Crows sat on their lead

SCORERS: Sydney United: Zdrilic (15), S Babic (65)
Morwell: Villani (64)
YELLOW CARDS: Sydney United: Bilokapic (22)
Morwell: Bothwell (22)
POY: 3-S Babic (Sydney Utd)
2-T Popovic (Sydney Utd)
1-Villani (Morwell)
CROWD: 3,289
REFEREE: E Brazzale

for 50 minutes but that changed midway through the second half when Morwell's livewire midfielder Ernie Tapai orchestrated a perfect break for Villani to race clear and score past Crews.

But the Crows struck back immediately.

Striker Zeljko Babic drove the ball strongly, collecting a wicked deflection off a Falcon defender and straight into goal, giving Kourtis little chance.

"The win was just pleasing after all the problems we've had recently and I think you can now expect a crackerjack match from us against Marconi next week," Culina said.

"I believe the ball is still in our court and we can finish the year with two winning results to get ourselves into the finals."

For Falcons coach Harry Bingham, it was a story of improvement without reward.

"The loss of Warren Spink early with a foot problem was hard to overcome but I think we were just too fragmented overall," he said.

"There's no doubt United

are a side that are hard to score against and they won't be easy to get over should they make the six."

SYDNEY UNITED: Crews, Kupresak, Bilokapic, Popovic, Moric, Enes, M Babic, Trajkovski, S Babic, Lamond (Markovac 61), Zdrilic.

MORWELL FALCONS: Kourtis, Marcina, Miller, Tapai, Waddell, Bothwell, Talladira, Masi (Reda 45), Spink (Villani 10), Douglas, Mangos.



Andrew Crews: His last minute save ensured maximum points for the Crows

Record unbeaten stretch for Adelaide

**ADELAIDE
CITY 5
MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS 0**

BY PETER KRUPKA

Adelaide City's unbeaten run into the national soccer league finals series continued with a 5-0 pounding of Melbourne Knights in a spiteful encounter at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The Zebras made it 13 games without loss as they ran all over the Knights, who were reduced to 10 men after 18 minutes when Danny Tiatto was sent off for kicking Dino Mennillo.

City used its numerical advantage well with Damian Mori continuing his remarkable season scoring twice with skipper Alex Tobin firing home a penalty and Craig Foster and Bradley Hassell completing the rout.

Referee Brett Hugo produced four yellow cards as well as the red in the heated clash between last year's grand finalists with the result pushing the Zebras to fourth, ahead on goal difference of the Knights.

Mori fired home his 30th goal for the season when he climbed well to glance home a header from a Mark Brazzale cross and scored his second two minutes from full time when he tucked a ball from Mennillo wide of Knights' keeper Frank Juric.

The second half belonged to the Zebras who could have

SCORERS: Adelaide: Mori (27, 83), Tobin (47pen), Foster (70), Hassell (90)
YELLOW CARDS: Adelaide: Mori (11), Lozanovski (60)
Knights: Lapsansky (23), Z Markovski (47)
RED CARD: Knights: Tiatto (18)
POY: 3-Hassell (Adelaide)
2-Brazzale (Adelaide)
1-Mori (Adelaide)
CROWD: 5,821
REFEREE: B Hugo

scored more had it not been for Juric who denied Mori and Foster what looked certain goals.

Hassell, who scored a deserved goal in the final minute, set Foster up for his goal when he dispossessed Markovski and passed the ball across goal where Foster waited unmarked to slot



Mark Brazzale: Prominent in Zebras suppression of Knights.

the ball wide of the 'keeper.

The Knights began the match with more purpose with Joe Spiteri ever alert and Tiatto busy.

Tiatto's retaliation against Mennillo off the ball and out of sight of referee Hugo was spotted by the linesman and his dismissal took the wind out of the visitors.

Their best chance to score came five minutes before the break when Spiteri threaded Vinko Buljubasic behind the Zebra defence but 'keeper Jason Petkovic cut out the promising cross.

With 53 points, six off joint leaders Marconi and UTS Olympic, and the best goal difference in the league, City coach John Perin said the side could challenge for second spot on the ladder and be in striking distance of its fourth title.

"If we finish second, I'd say we've got a good chance, but with only 14 players we've got a very thin squad," Perin said.

"We were a bit impatient in the first but at half time we pushed another player forward and had more space."

"It was never going to be a pretty game because there was so much pressure."

City's unbeaten streak is now the longest in the club's 19 years of national league soccer.

ADELAIDE CITY: Petkovic, Yates (Costanzo 78), Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Hassell, Lozanovski, Armour, Mennillo, Brazzale (Perin 78), Foster (Salapasis 78).

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: Juric, Buljubasic, DeAmicis, D Cervinski (T Pondeljak 52), Z Markovski, Marth, Simunic, Spiteri, Lapsansky (Vojtek 67), Tiatto, A Cervinski (Kutlesovski 80).

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Newcastle Breakers v Wollongong City



NEWCASTLE	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Craig Carter	G	24 (0)	0	3 (0)
Adam Fittock	G	7 (2)	0	0 (0)
Adam Sanderson	D	21 (1)	1	2 (0)
Steve Hickman	D	25 (1)	0	8 (2)
Nick Johns	D	1 (3)	0	0 (0)
Ralph Maier	D	31 (0)	0	4 (0)
Glen Moore	D	8 (2)	0	2 (0)
Shane Pryce	D	17 (2)	1	6 (0)
Peter Ritchie	D	13 (0)	0	1 (0)
Andy Roberts	D	21 (1)	0	4 (0)
Ryan Smith	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Linkon Knott	D	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Glen Sprod	D	22 (3)	2	2 (0)
Darren Stewart	D	9 (0)	1	4 (0)
Gary Wilson	M	9 (0)	0	3 (0)
Craig Sharpley	M	22 (3)	0	3 (0)
Damian Brown	M	12 (4)	2	0 (0)
Troy Halpin	M	15 (3)	5	7 (0)
Scott Thomas	M	14 (6)	2	4 (1)
Jason Bennett	S	24 (1)	8	1 (0)
David Lowe	S	19 (6)	5	2 (0)
Harry James	S	3 (4)	1	0 (0)
Clayton Zane	S	22 (5)	5	4 (1)

Head to head: Wolves 4-4-0, Goals (15-8)
Newcastle at home: 0-3-1, Goals (4-5)

RECORD

NEWCASTLE	WOLVES
Record Score: N/A.	Record Score: 4-1 (H) 1995-1996.
LAST 5 MATCHES	LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 2-0-3	Away: 0-1-4

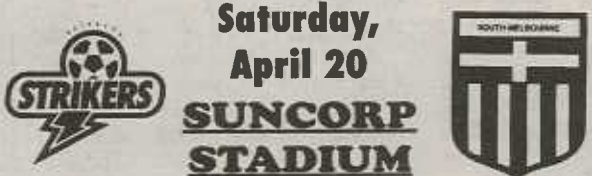
WOLVES	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Brett Hughes	G	30 (0)	0	3 (1)
Steve Angelov	G	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Martin Bourke	D	30 (0)	0	4 (0)
Matthew Dihn	D	13 (3)	0	1 (0)
Steve Forshaw	D	11 (1)	1	2 (1)
Bill Gjakovski	D	15 (7)	1	3 (1)
Sterjovski	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ian Pollari	D	9 (3)	0	2 (0)
George Jolevski	D	13 (3)	0	2 (1)
Richard Lloyd	D	21 (2)	2	4 (0)
Mike O'Shea	D	11 (0)	0	5 (0)
Joe Vrkic *	D	5 (1)	0	3 (0)
Paul Beltrame *	M	6 (3)	0	2 (0)
Mineo Bonetig	M	5 (12)	1	2 (0)
Matthew Borg	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alvin Ceccoli	M	12 (2)	2	1 (0)
Claudio Cellini	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Stephen Laybutt	M	0 (7)	0	0 (0)
Pedro Ricoy	M	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Matt Horsley	M	29 (0)	0	1 (0)
Lupco Naumovski	M	27 (0)	2	3 (0)
Angelo Petratos	M	14 (12)	2	4 (1)
Saso Dimoski	S	4 (0)	0	1 (0)
Mario Jermen	S	16 (6)	7	1 (0)
Colin Luff	S	4 (11)	1	0 (0)
Tony Perinich	S	31 (0)	8	2 (0)
Stuart McClaren	S	7 (2)	0	2 (0)
Rob Middleby	S	12 (2)	0	2 (2)

* Paul Beltrame's stats include 4 full and 3 substitute appearances, 2 y c for Marconi
* Joe Vrkic made 1 sub appearance for Syd Utd.

ABSW TIPS

- (86) Alistair Russell: Wolves
(74) John Economos: Draw
(94) Greg Blake: Newcastle
(89) Con Stavros: Wolves
(70) Bob Brooks: Newcastle

Brisbane Strikers v South Melbourne



BRISBANE	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Clint Bolton	G	31 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Brayshaw	D	12 (10)	1	3 (1)
Glen Gwynne	D	9 (0)	0	2 (0)
Alan Hunter	D	26 (0)	2	1 (0)
Steve Jackson	D	14 (2)	0	5 (0)
Chris Zoricich	D	26 (2)	3	5 (1)
Craig Williams	D	17 (6)	1	2 (0)
Mark Battistin	D	20 (6)	3	4 (0)
Sean Cranney	M	17 (0)	3	2 (0)
Troy Cranney	M	31 (0)	1	1 (0)
Brad Ditton	M	6 (7)	1	1 (0)
Chay Hews	M	4 (9)	0	0 (0)
Gary Phillips	M	25 (0)	1	1 (0)
Jason Polak	M	28 (1)	4	3 (0)
Danny Wright	M	15 (6)	1	3 (0)
Reece Tollenaere	S	2 (6)	0	0 (0)
Rod Brown	S	29 (0)	12	2 (0)
Frank Farina	S	26 (0)	17	5 (1)
Kasey Wehrman	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

Head to Head: Level 4-2-4, Goals (Souths 13-12)
Brisbane at home: 4-0-1, Goals (10-3)

RECORD

BRISBANE	SOUTHS
Record Score: 3-0 (H) 1995-1996.	Record Score: 5-1 (H) 1992-1993.
LAST 5 MATCHES	LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 4-1-0	Away: 1-1-3

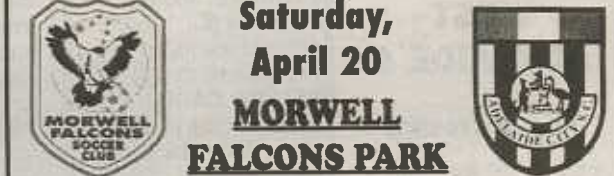
SOUTHS	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Dean Anastasiadis	G	15 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Liliakakis	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Petkovic	G	13 (0)	0	0 (0)
Con Anthopoulos	D	16 (4)	1	4 (0)
Alan Davidson	D	7 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Duric	D	3 (2)	0	3 (0)
Kevin Muscat	D	10 (0)	0	3 (0)
Nick Orlic*	D	21 (5)	1	4 (0)
Jean Paul Knezevic	D	13 (0)	0	2 (0)
Alex Kuzmanovic	D	26 (0)	0	5 (1)
Nick Papadopoulos	D	4 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Valkanis	D	10 (1)	0	5 (0)
Paul Trimboli	M	27 (1)	7	1 (0)
Tansel Baser	M	16 (5)	0	2 (0)
Con Blatsis	M	14 (2)	1	7 (2)
Bill Damianos	M	18 (8)	5	1 (0)
Sasa Nikolic	M	5 (13)	0	2 (0)
Steve Panopoulos	M	23 (2)	6	4 (0)
Mike Petersen	M	26 (0)	0	7 (0)
Daniel Allsopp	S	10 (1)	1	0 (0)
Vaughan Coveny	S	24 (0)	10	3 (1)
Michael Curcija	S	6 (6)	4	2 (0)
Ivan Kelic	S	14 (2)	7	1 (0)
Craig Lewis	S	3 (14)	1	4 (0)
Agim Sherifovski	S	12 (8)	1	2 (1)

* Orlic's stats include 12 full, 4 substitute appearances and 1 yc for UTS Olympic

ABSW TIPS

- (86) Alistair Russell: Brisbane
(74) John Economos: Brisbane
(94) Greg Blake: Brisbane
(89) Con Stavros: Brisbane
(70) Bob Brooks: Brisbane

Morwell Falcons v Adelaide City



MORWELL	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Jim Kourtis	G	29 (0)	0	0 (0)
Jason Dastey	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Claudio Canosa	D	22 (3)	1	11 (0)
David Craig	D	2 (7)	0	1 (0)
Sean Douglas	D	22 (1)	1	4 (0)
Alex Cummings	D	10 (4)	0	1 (0)
Justin Geri	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Steve Mangos*	D	7 (4)	1	0 (0)
Scott Miller	D	28 (0)	2	5 (1)
Doug Marcina	D	31 (0)	0	2 (0)
John Waddell	D	26 (0)	1	3 (0)
James Alesi	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sonny Sevin	M	25 (1)	2	2 (0)
Marc Stergiopoulos	M	9 (13)	1	4 (0)
Carlo Talladira *	M	16 (7)	0	1 (0)
Ernie Tapai	M	27 (0)	3	10 (1)
Zoran Todorovski	M	1 (6)	0	0 (0)
Brian Bothwell	S	25 (1)	5	9 (0)
Rob Despotovski	S	1 (5)	1	0 (0)
Michael Reda	S	20 (9)	2	4 (0)
Warren Spink	S	25 (0)	8	2 (0)
Carlo Villani	S	8 (11)	3	0 (0)
Esala Masi	S	10 (0)	4	0 (0)

* Carlo Talladira's stats include 2 full and 7 substitute appearances for Adelaide City
* Steve Mangos' stats include 4 full, 3 substitute appearances and 1 goal for Souths.

Head to Head: Ad City 5-3-0, Goals (23-8)
Morwell at home: 0-0-4, Goals (4-14)

RECORD

MORWELL	AD CITY
Record Score: N/A	Record Score: 5-0 (H) 1995-1996.
LAST 5 MATCHES	LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 2-3-0	Away: 2-3-0

AD CITY	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Jason Petkovic	G	31 (0)	0	0 (0)
Milan Ivanovic	D	30 (0)	0	4 (0)
Sasha Nedeljkovic	D	8 (4)	0	4 (1)
Alex Tobin	D	28 (0)	3	3 (0)
Brad Armour	D	27 (0)	1	7 (0)
Joel Marino	D	1 (1)	0	1 (0)
Mark Yates	D	27 (2)	0	3 (0)
Mark Brazzale *	M	13 (3)	0	4 (0)
Angelo Costanzo	M	8 (13)	0	0 (0)
Craig Foster	M	17 (0)	7	2 (0)
John Gibson	M	22 (0)	1	3 (0)
Goran Lozanovski	M	30 (0)	1	6 (0)
Dino Mennillo	M	15 (11)	2	4 (0)
Jamie Perin	M	13 (2)	0	3 (1)
Michael Perone	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Brad Hassell	S	29 (1)	13	0 (0)
Damian Mori	S	31 (0)	31	3 (0)
Joe Mullen	S	8 (1)	3	1 (0)
Kosta Salapassidis	U	6 (14)	0	0 (0)
Adrian Landorio	U	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

* Mark Brazzale's stats include 5 full and 1 substitute appearance for West Adelaide.

ABSW TIPS

- (86) Alistair Russell: Ad City
(74) John Economos: Ad City
(94) Greg Blake: Ad City
(89) Con Stavros: Ad City
(70) Bob Brooks: Ad City

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield



Sunday,
April 21

**SYD CROATIAN
SPT CENTRE**



SYD UTD	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
		() RES		() RC
John Perosh	G	26 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Crews	G	5 (1)	0	0 (0)
Mark Babic	D	26 (0)	0	4 (0)
Paul Bilokapic	D	26 (0)	1	8 (0)
Velimir Kupresak	D	30 (0)	0	5 (0)
Richard Plesa	D	13 (5)	1	3 (0)
Tony Popovic	D	24 (0)	4	4 (1)
Mark Rudan	D	12 (8)	2	3 (0)
Robert Enes	M	28 (0)	0	8 (1)
Aytek Genc	M	19 (0)	3	5 (1)
Chad Gibson	M	4 (2)	1	2 (0)
Ante Moric	M	20 (0)	1	2 (1)
Jim Patikas	M	12 (5)	1	2 (0)
Robert Trajkovski	M	7 (2)	0	1 (0)
Robert Markovac	M	13 (8)	3	2 (0)
Dominic Usalj	M	2 (5)	0	0 (0)
James Aschner	S	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Sean Babic	S	7 (17)	6	4 (0)
Manis Lamond	S	11 (11)	6	2 (0)
Ante Milicic	S	27 (3)	6	2 (0)
David Zdrilic	S	29 (1)	8	2 (0)

Head to Head: Syd Utd 10-9-7, Goals (36-38)
Syd Utd at home: 6-2-4, Goals (20-21)

RECORD

SYD UTD

MARCONI

Record Score: 3-0 (H)
1994-1995.
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 4-0-1

Record Score: 5-0 (A)
1987.
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-3-1

MARCONI	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
		() RES		() RC
Bob Catlin	G	31 (0)	0	0 (0)
Luke Casserly	D	16 (6)	0	4 (1)
J P De Marigny	D	27 (0)	0	8 (0)
Aaron Holst	D	7 (5)	0	1 (0)
Darren Iocca	D	1 (5)	0	2 (0)
Dominic Longo	D	21 (0)	1	5 (1)
Mike Smith	D	17 (0)	5	5 (0)
Paul Souris	D	26 (4)	0	1 (0)
Robert Stanton	D	17 (10)	0	2 (0)
Gary Van Egmond	D	12 (1)	0	3 (0)
Matt Bingley	M	25 (1)	8	0 (0)
Ramon Climent	M	3 (3)	0	1 (0)
Eric Hristodoulou	M	23 (7)	4	2 (0)
Brad Maloney	M	29 (2)	5	2 (0)
Andrew Ravanella	M	0 (2)	0	1 (0)
Brendan Renaud	M	13 (8)	5	2 (0)
Vlado Zoric	M	10 (12)	1	1 (0)
Andy Harper	S	29 (0)	13	6 (0)
Francis Awaritefe	S	29 (1)	11	5 (0)
Darren McDonald	S	0 (3)	0	0 (0)
John Angelucci	S	0 (2)	0	0 (0)

ABSW TIPS

(86) Alistair Russell: Draw
(74) John Economos: Syd Utd
(94) Greg Blake: Syd Utd
(89) Con Stavros: Draw
(70) Bob Brooks: Draw

Melbourne Knights v Canberra Cosmos



Sunday,
April 20

**MELB CROATIAN
SPT CENTRE**



KNIGHTS	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
		() RES		() RC
Frank Juric	G	31 (0)	0	1 (0)
Vinko Buljubasic	D	27 (1)	1	6 (0)
Zoran Markovski	D	13 (4)	0	4 (0)
David Cervinski	D	29 (0)	2	7 (0)
Fausto De Amicis	D	29 (0)	0	3 (0)
Branko Bacak	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Damien Grganovic	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ante Kovacevic	D	24 (2)	0	3 (0)
Andrew Marth	D	28 (0)	8	7 (1)
Lubo Lapsansky	M	27 (1)	3	7 (0)
Idriz Pelia	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Mark Silic	M	15 (0)	0	2 (0)
Josip Simunic	M	13 (0)	0	0 (0)
Danny Tiatto	M	17 (11)	0	4 (1)
Damian Vojtek	M	6 (14)	2	1 (0)
Joe Bacak *	S	8 (7)	1	1 (0)
Adrian Cervinski	S	4 (0)	0	0 (0)
Ice Kutlesovski	S	8 (13)	6	1 (0)
John Markovski	S	13 (1)	3	4 (0)
Ollie Pondeljak	S	4 (4)	0	0 (0)
Joe Spiteri	S	23 (1)	9	7 (0)
Tom Pondeljak	U	16 (5)	7	0 (0)
Dragi Nastevski	U	6 (4)	0	2 (0)

* Joe Bacak's stats include 5 full and 6 substitute appearances, 1 goal + 1 yellow card for Olympic.

Head to Head: Canberra 1-1-0, Goals (6-4)
Knights at home: 0-0-1, Goals (1-3)

RECORD

KNIGHTS

CANBERRA

Record Score: N/A
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-2-0

Record Score: 3-1 (A)
1995-1996.
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-2-3

CANBERRA	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
		() RES		() RC
Steve Mautone	G	20 (0)	0	1 (0)
Tony Giannasca	G	7 (0)	0	0 (0)
Ben Harris	G	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Danny Milosevic	G	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Paul Dee	D	27 (1)	1	5 (0)
Stan Dukic	D	8 (5)	0	1 (0)
Peter Mazis	D	16 (0)	1	3 (0)
Richard Watson	D	21 (1)	0	3 (0)
Jason Dunn	D	25 (0)	2	6 (1)
Joe Galletti	D	4 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Wade	D	27 (0)	11	2 (0)
Jim Baxter	M	5 (4)	0	1 (0)
Alex Castro	M	13 (1)	3	2 (0)
Gus Cerro	M	6 (0)	0	1 (0)
Norman Kelly	M	18 (0)	2	6 (0)
John Koch	M	24 (0)	0	2 (0)
Arsenije Popovich	M	3 (6)	1	1 (0)
Toplica Popovich	M	17 (1)	0	6 (0)
Willie Hastie	M	3 (1)	0	1 (0)
Paul McVitie	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Musitano	M	23 (2)	6	4 (1)
Lachlan Armstrong	M	18 (0)	5	6 (1)
Michael Garcia	M	10 (1)	0	0 (0)
Njegosh Popovich	M	3 (1)	0	1 (0)
Tony Lemezina	S	11 (9)	3	2 (0)
Marko Perinovic	S	25 (1)	6	9 (0)

ABSW TIPS

(86) Alistair Russell: Knights
(74) John Economos: Knights
(94) Greg Blake: Knights
(89) Con Stavros: Knights
(70) Bob Brooks: Knights

West Adelaide v UTS Olympic



Sunday,
April 20

**HINDMARSH
STADIUM**



WEST AD	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
		() RES		() RC
Peter Blazincic	G	31 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Haniotis	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Robbie Hooker	D	28 (0)	4	4 (0)
Rechat Mezensof	D	0 (9)	1	0 (0)
Con Kokkinoplitis	D	25 (0)	0	5 (0)
Frank Tibaldi	D	26 (0)	0	6 (1)
Robbie Slager	D	29 (0)	2	5 (0)
Richie Alagich	M	29 (1)	0	2 (0)
Ross Aloisi	M	29 (0)	3	8 (0)
Ayrton Andrioli	M	11 (5)	2	2 (0)
Jim Keramidas	M	9 (6)	1	0 (0)
Pablo Cardozo	M	26 (2)	9	6 (0)
Atthan Lekkas	M	2 (5)	0	1 (0)
Scott Morrison	M	4 (4)	0	2 (0)
Branko Milosevic *	M	14 (2)	0	2 (0)
Hamilton Thorpe	M	15 (5)	0	2 (0)
Jim Tsekinis	S	29 (1)	15	3 (0)
Jose Iriarte	S	9 (8)	0	3 (0)
C Ndongo-Keller	S	3 (2)	4	0 (0)
Nathan Day	U	18 (9)	4	5 (0)

* Branko Milosevic Stats include 2 full and 2 substitute appearances for UTS Olympic

Head to Head: Olympic 12-3-9, Goals (35-30)
West Ad at home: 6-2-4, Goals (15-13)

RECORD

WEST AD

OLYMPIC

Record Score: 4-0 (A)
1977.
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-0-2

Record Score: 4-0 (A)
1989-1990.
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-2-3

OLYMPIC	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
		() RES		() RC
George Bouhoutsos	G	9 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Gibson	G	22 (0)	0	0 (0)
Scott Baillie	D	11 (1)	1	4 (0)
Dave Barrett	D	30 (0)	0	4 (0)
Milan Blagojevic	D	26 (0)	0	7 (0)
Adam Ciantar	D	27 (0)	1	1 (1)
Nick Meredith	D	25 (1)	2	10 (0)
George Sorras	D	3 (7)	0	2 (0)
Ivan Zelic	D	9 (2)	0	1 (0)
Walter Ardone	M	24 (2)	2	6 (1)
Elias Augerinos	M	7 (14)	2	2 (0)
Robbie Ironside	M	0 (2)	1	0 (0)
Kris Trajanovski	M	30 (0)	18	2 (0)
Peter Tsekenis	M	23 (0)	1	5 (0)
George Valas	M	0 (3)	0	0 (0)
Raphael Bove	U	1 (6)	0	0 (0)
Alistair Edwards	S	9 (3)	1	1 (0)
Ivo De Jesus	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Norman Tome	S	28 (1)	8	4 (0)
Kim Taliadoros	S	24 (2)	7	2 (0)
Chris Slater *	S	5 (8)	1	1 (0)
Derek Poimer	S	8 (5)	2	3 (0)
Carlos Gonzalez	S	0 (3)	0	0 (0)

* Chris Slater's stats include 1 full and 2 substitute appearances for Brisbane.

ABSW TIPS

(86) Alistair Russell: Draw
(74) John Economos: Olympic
(94) Greg Blake: West Ad
(89) Con Stavros: West Ad
(70) Bob Brooks: Draw



**SUPER LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE**

Sutherland Sharks	2St George Saints	0
D Klower 60m		
D Thomas 82m		
Rockdale City Suns	3 Illawarra Lions	0
E Williams 59/88m		
I MacDonald 81m		
Central Coast	2 Canterbury Berries	0
D Melverton 16m		
A Clark 70m		
Leichhardt Tigers	1 Adamstown R'bud	2
S Cleary 15m	L McGuire 71/78m	
Macarthur Rams	0 Warringah Dolphins	4
	R Etherington 33m	
	D Guzzo 38m	
	F Gigliotti 48m	
	D Harding 77m	
Bankstown City Lions	5 Bonnyrigg WE	3
M Todoroski 17m	V Skataric 14m	
T Bojkovski 78m	M Ninkovic 44/62	
S Boskovski 79m		
N Joseski 84/87m		

UNDER 21

Sutherland Sharks	0 St George Saints	0
Rockdale City Suns	3 Illawarra Lions	1
Central Coast	1 Canterbury Berries	2
Leichhardt Tigers	2 Adamstown R'bud	1
Macarthur Rams	0 Warringah Dolphins	0
Bankstown City Lions	2 Bonnyrigg WE	4

**SUPER LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Warringah Dolphins	10	5	4	1	21	9	19
Parramatta Eagles	10	6	1	3	18	9	19
Adamstown R'buds	10	6	1	3	16	11	19
Sutherland Sharks	10	4	6	0	14	9	18
Leichhardt Tigers	10	5	2	3	14	13	17
Bankstown City	10	5	1	4	24	17	16
Blacktown City	10	4	4	2	16	9	16
Bonnyrigg WE	10	4	4	2	24	21	16
Central Coast	10	4	3	3	17	16	15
St George Saints	10	3	3	4	10	14	12
Canterbury Berries	10	2	3	5	17	23	9
Rockdale City Suns	10	2	2	6	14	24	8
Illawarra Lions	10	1	4	5	12	21	7
Macarthur Rams	10	0	0	10	3	24	0

**FEDERATION DIVISION ONE
FIRST GRADE**

Belmore Hercules	5 Stanmore Hawks	2
A Zafaris 5/85m	J Peleganos 25m	
J Nikas 20m	E Briscoe 32m	
J Melissourgos 30m		
J Mendes 90m		
Dulwich Hill	0 Southern Minotaurs	0
Fairfield Bulls	0 Penrith Panthers	2
	R Astone 60m	
	D Moss 80m	
Mt Pritchard	1 Auburn United	1
B Gambrill 31m	S Kalovic 6m	
Ryde City	0 Hills United	1
	K Lester 89m	
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	3 West Wanderers	1
Own goal 11m	J Boudaheer 45m	
R Sandoval 64m		
D Grech 77m		
Bathurst '75	0 Sydney Cosmos	0

UNDER 21

Belmore Hercules	0 Stanmore Hawks	2
Dulwich Hill	2 Southern Minotaurs	4
Fairfield Bulls	2 Penrith Panthers	2
Mt Pritchard	2 Auburn United	2
Ryde City	7 Hills United	3
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	0 West Wanderers	5
Bathurst '75	2 Sydney Cosmos	2

Dolphins batter rams

**Blacktown City 2
Parramatta Eagles 1**

Blacktown City overcame former league leader Parramatta Eagles with a gutsy performance, by two goals to one on Saturday night at the Gabbie Stadium.

The Eagles went to the lead in the eighth minute when Malcolm Meilak received a well directed centre from Anthony Surjan.

Just six minutes later a brilliant solo effort brought its reward for teenager, Jay Anderson. He beat his marker on the left touch line, cut inside, left two defenders in his wake and hit the ball home from a seemingly impossible angle.

The near 2000 crowd was kept well entertained throughout although it was never a pretty game.

A rare header from Martin Driene produced the second goal for the Demons. Steve Berry sped down the right flank and whipped over a low hard centre. Driene was on hand to dive in to power the ball past a stranded Jason Holmes.

The second half saw both defences working hard with Blagoje Kuleski for the Eagles and Damian Foxe along with David Scott for the Demons, all brilliant.

**ADAMSTOWN
ROSEBUD 2**

**LEICHHARDT
TIGERS 1**

Adamstown Rosebud came from behind to beat Leichhardt Tigers 2-1 at Lambeth Park to remain at the top of the NSW Super League table.

The Tigers led 1-0 at halftime thanks to Stuart Cleary's sixth goal of the year, and dominated the opening 20 minutes of the second half, but missed six good scoring chances.

Adamstown equalised against the run of play through a header by Liam McGuire from a John McQuarrie cross but then had to rely on goalkeeper Liam Baker to thwart the Leichhardt attack.

Adamstown's winner came on 75 minutes with McGuire pouncing on the loose ball after poor defence from a Cameron Hudson free kick.

The win lifts Adamstown onto level points at the top with Warringah Dolphins and the Parramatta Eagles.

**MACARTHUR RAMS 0
WARRINGAH
DOLPHINS 4**

In a game that failed to reach any great heights,

Warringah Dolphins inflicted yet another defeat on the hapless Macarthur Rams at Lynwood Park last Sunday.

Goals by Ross Etherington (33), David Guzzo (38) and Frank Gigliotti (48) and David Harding (77) saw Macarthur well and truly thrashed.

As has often been the case, Macarthur failed to capitalise on early opportunities and conceded their first goal somewhat against the run of play.

The first real chance of the game came in the fourth minute when Warren Hayward turned brilliantly after receiving a well weighted pass from Craig Shipley. The resulting shot just going wide.

Just two minutes later the Dolphins were almost in after the ball rebounded from Cerjacks legs into the path of Beldham who took the ball around the diving David Hayes only to have his shot cleared off the line by a desperate Radic. The 14th minute saw another chance go begging for the Rams when a through ball from Telisman found Flack with only the keeper to beat.

Fernando Greco covered his angles well and blocked the shot.

The first goal of the match came in the 33rd minute when Sam Panetta pounced on a loose ball on the left touch line and sent a well placed cross into the penalty area where an unmarked Ethrington headed into the Rams net.

Just five minutes later the Dolphins went 2-0 up when Guzzo ran onto a ball that was switched from the midfield and drove his shot past the outstretched Hayes.

Three minutes after the resumption Warringah extended their lead to after several attempts to clear from the Rams penalty area failed. The ball eventually falling to Gigliotti who hammered home from 20m.

Play see-sawed from end to end with chances to both sides being snuffed out by solid defence.

Several attacking waves were mounted by the Dolphins and after soaking up sustained pressure the Rams defence cracked when Moss was brought down in the Rams penalty box.

Hayes guessed the right way but could only parry the ball into the path of an alert Harding who finished with clinical precision.

UNDER 18

Belmore Hercules	2Stanmore Hawks	4
Dulwich Hill	PSouthern Minotaurs	P
Fairfield Bulls	1Penrith Panthers	1
Mt Pritchard	0Auburn United	1
Ryde City	2Hills United	0
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	1West Wanderers	0
Bathurst '75	0Sydney Cosmos	3

**FEDERATION DIVISION ONE
FIRST GRADE**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bathurst '75	6	4	2	0	11	5	14
Hills United	6	4	0	2	10	8	12
Sydney Cosmos	6	3	2	1	13	4	11
Belmore Hercules	6	3	2	1	12	5	11
Penrith Panthers	6	3	2	1	15	9	11
Mt Pritchard	6	2	3	1	12	9	9
Ryde City	6	2	2	2	12	11	8
Auburn United	6	2	2	2	12	12	8
Sthn Minotaurs	6	2	2	2	8	10	8
Fairfield Bulls	6	2	0	4	9	9	6
Dulwich Hill	6	1	2	3	7	9	5
West Wanderers	6	1	2	3	7	14	5
Mt Druitt Town	6	1	1	4	8	20	4
Stanmore Hawks	6	0	2	4	6	17	2

**FEDERATION DIVISION TWO
FIRST GRADE**

Liverpool City	2 Granville Gr'island	3
Parramatta City	0 Prairiewood Utd	1
Alexandria Warriors	2 Sydney District	4
Trasandinos	1 Greystanes	3
Concord Juniors	1 Uni of NSW	1
Hurstville	0 AC United	0

UNDER 21

Liverpool City	P Granville Gr'island	P
Parramatta City	9 Prairiewood Utd	1
Alexandria Warriors	3 Sydney District	1
Trasandinos	1 Greystanes	2
Concord Juniors	3 Uni of NSW	1
Hurstville	3 AC United	1

UNDER 18

Liverpool City	3 Granville Gr'island	1
Parramatta City	2 Prairiewood Utd	1
Alexandria Warriors	1 Sydney District	1
Trasandinos	0 Greystanes	9
Concord Juniors	0 Uni of NSW	3
Hurstville	0 AC United	4

**FEDERATION DIVISION TWO
FIRST GRADE**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Greystanes	4	4	0	0	14	3	12
Sydney District	4	3	1	0	10	5	10
Alexandria Warrior	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
Hurstville	4	1	3	0	5	3	6
Trasandinos	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Concord Juniors	4	1	2	1	12	6	5
Prairiewood	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
Granville G'island	4	1	1	2	7	18	4
Uni of NSW	4	0	3	1	3	4	3
AC United	4	0	3	1	3	5	3
Parramatta City	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
Liverpool City	4	0	1	3	5	10	1

**FEDERATION DIVISION THREE
FIRST GRADE**

Moorebank Sports	5 Glebe Wanderers	1
St John's Park	1 Gladesville Utd	2
Earlwood Hermes	3 Colo Colo	3
The Wanderers	2 Prospect United	3
Hawkesbury City	0 Sporting SCC	0
hakoah	2 White City	0

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 11

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL

Adamstown Rosebud v Bankstown City Lions

Adamstown Oval, 3.00pm

St George Saints v Leichhardt Tigers

St George Stadium, 3.00pm

Illawarra Lions v Sutherland Sharks

Brandon Park, 3.00pm

Canterbury Marrickville v Rockdale City Suns

Serbian Centre, 3.00pm

Parramatta Eagles v Central Coast

Melita Stadium, 3.00pm

Macarthur Rams v Blacktown City Demons

Lynwood Park, 3.00pm

Warringah Dolphins v Bonnyrigg WE

Cromer Park, 3.00pm

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QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



New at job but knows what it takes

BY BRENT READ

As a born and bred Queenslander, new state coach John Stewart knows what it takes to represent Queensland in the cauldron of interstate football.

The eight cap veteran, now captain-coaching Slacks Creek in the third division, has been involved in Queensland soccer for

over a decade at senior level.

During that time he has captained the Maroons, represented Brisbane Lions in the National League and led Rochdale Rovers to Grand final success in 1993.

Stewart said he was looking forward to taking over the reins from former state coach Juan Cutillas.

"My ideas on the game

are very basic," the 36 year old said. "Work hard, play the game very simple and let the players enjoy it."

"If they don't enjoy it, they don't express themselves."

With the proposed interstate series up in the air subject to financial viability, the programme for Queensland this year remains in limbo.

However, the side will

meet traditional rivals New South Wales in a home and away series, continue its yearly clash with Auckland and face a one-off game against the Northern Territory.

Stewart has a decided advantage over his predecessors with the availability of Queensland's NSL stars subject to their finals itinerary.

"I'll liaise with Bruce (Strikers coach Bruce

Stowell) on the subject of his players," Stewart said.

As in the past, the side won't be limited strictly to Ericsson Cup players and Stewart will be heavily reliant on his yet to be appointed assistant when it comes to local talent.

On the subject of country players, while not denying the talent existed in the areas outside the S.E. corner Stewart believes those with ability generally gravitate to XXXX League clubs.

"Clubs themselves have been bringing people to Brisbane and they get look at for the Queensland side," he said. "It's very unusual that a quality player remains in the country."

With his club facing a series of Friday night clashes over the next seven weeks, the newly appointed coach is free to probe the local league for quality players.

"I'll listen to people's opinions," he said. "If Stowell wants to look at a player I think should be looked at, I'll use him."

"It's a learning experience at that level. It's my goal to have the team play entertaining soccer, particularly in the one of friendlies where the entertainment value is the most important thing."

Stewart remains committed to helping Slacks Creek earn a place in the streamlined XXXX League next year, but his long term ambition remains to coach at the highest level.

A successful season in charge of the mighty Maroons would be the perfect springboard.

FAIR PLAY AWARD

This year sees the introduction of the Insurance Exchange of Australia Fair Play Award. An award that will make the winning club \$1500 richer at the end of the season.

The rules are quite simple. The object is to score the least number of points.

Yellow cards attract their face value as per the referees allocation and the red cards attract six demerit points.

As you can see by the table after just four rounds, Pine Rivers has leapt to the top — or is that bottom? Taringa and Nerang share the distinction of no red cards. The award covers all grades of the XXXX league in this pilot year.

IEA FAIR PLAY TABLE

End Round 4	P	YELW	RED	Pts
Taringa Rovers	12	7	0	26
Brisbane Lions	12	9	2	27
Coalstars	12	11	0	38
Nerang	12	12	0	39
Wynnum	12	11	2	42
Grange Thistle	12	13	1	48
Eastern Suburbs	12	14	2	52
Brisbane City	12	15	1	54
Beenleigh	12	19	1	57
North Star	12	15	1	59
Rochdale Rov	12	18	2	66
Pine Rivers	12	26	6	110

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

as at April 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane City	18	14	2	2	45	17	44
Rochdale R	18	10	4	4	45	20	34
Brisbane Lions	18	10	3	5	43	27	33
Beenleigh	18	8	7	3	37	18	31
Wynnum Dist	18	9	3	6	30	20	30
Coalstars	18	8	3	7	35	23	27
Grange Thistle	18	8	3	7	33	38	27
Taringa Rvrs	18	8	2	8	35	26	26
Eastern Subs	18	7	4	7	23	27	25
Pine Rivers	18	5	0	13	28	50	15
Nerang	18	4	2	12	29	46	14
North Star	18	0	1	17	12	83	1

LEADING GOALS SCORERS

- 5 Keiran Cooper (Rochdale Rov)
- 5 Andy Lees (Rochdale Rov)
- 4 Mark Flemington (Taringa Rov)
- 4 Cameron Watson (Nerang)
- 3 Craig Collins (Rochdale Rov)
- 3 Creg DeLosa (Grange Thistle)
- 3 Ian Hutchison (Brisbane City)
- 3 Clayton Koch (Pine Rivers)
- 3 Brendan Rogers (North Star)

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

This Week's Matches...

Friday, April 19

Rochdale Rovers v North Star Underwood Park 8.30pm

Grange Thistle v Wynnum Wallace J Dann Oval 8.30pm

Sunday, April 21

Pine Rivers v Brisbane Lions Wendy Allison Park 2.45pm

Nerang v Taringa Rovers Glennon Park 2.45pm

Eastern Suburbs v Brisbane City Heath Park 2.45pm

Coalstars v Beenleigh Eric Evans Reserve 2.45pm

ROUND SEVEN

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

Brisbane City	7	7	0	0	15	3	21
Grange Thistle	7	5	1	1	13	8	16
Beenleigh	7	5	1	1	9	4	16
Rochdale Rovers	7	4	2	1	22	6	14
Wynnum District	7	3	2	2	11	7	11
Brisbane Lions	7	3	1	3	13	14	10
Coalstars	7	3	0	4	13	11	9
Taringa Rovers	7	2	2	3	11	10	8
Nerang	7	2	0	5	10	19	6
Eastern Suburbs	7	1	2	4	8	15	5
Pine Rivers	7	1	0	6	13	23	3
North Star	7	0	1	6	8	26	1

RESULTS

Brisbane City	.....3	Coalstars	.....0
Beenleigh	.....2	Pine Rivers Utd	.....1
Wynnum District	.....2	Eastern Suburbs	.....2
North Star	.....1	Grange Thistle	.....3
Taringa Rovers	.....2	Rochdale Rovers	.....2
Brisbane Lions	.....3	Nerang Soccer Club	..0

DIVISION TWO

Rocklea United	7	5	2	0	23	9	17
Olympic United	7	4	3	0	17	10	15
Acacia Ridge	7	3	1	3	15	11	10
Logan City Kings	7	3	1	3	14	10	10
Albany Creek	7	3	1	3	17	22	10
St Albans	7	2	3	2	18	12	9
Inala City	7	3	0	4	13	18	9
The Gap	7	3	0	4	11	17	9
Ipswich St Helens	7	3	0	4	8	14	9
Capalaba	7	2	2	3	15	19	8
Willowburn	7	2	1	4	8	14	7
Mount Gravatt	7	1	2	4	13	16	5

RESULTS

Willowburn	.....1	Mount Gravatt	.....1
The Gap	.....3	St Albans	.....2
Inala City United	.....2	Rocklea United	.....7
Logan City Kings	.....0	Ipswich St Helens	.....1
Acacia Ridge	.....1	Olympic United	.....4
Albany Creek	.....5	Capalaba	.....4

DIVISION THREE

Slacks Creek	7	7	0	0	23	3	21
Newmarket	7	5	1	1	10	5	16
Uni of Qld	7	4	2	1	13	6	14
Goodna & Districts	7	3	2	2	15	7	11
Latrobe Athletic	7	3	2	2	16	17	11
Redlands United	7	3	1	3	20	11	10
Mitchelton	7	3	1	3	18	12	10
Souths United	7	2	2	3	10	9	8
Annerley Recreation	7	2	2	3	10	16	8
Western Suburbs	7	2	0	5	10	29	6
Darra United	7	0	3	4	13	22	3
Clairvaux	7	0	0	7	10	31	0

RESULTS

Souths United	.....6	Clairvaux	.....3
Mitchelton	.....2	Redlands United	.....2
Newmarket	.....0	Uni Of Qld	.....0
Darra United	.....0	Slacks Creek	.....6
Annerley Recreation	.....2	Latrobe Athletic	.....2
Western Suburbs	.....0	Goodna & Districts	.....4

DIVISION FOUR

South Star	7	6	0	1	21	4	18
Moggill United	7	6	0	1	21	4	18
Southside Eagles	7	4	2	1	15	10	14
Bayside United	7	5	0	2	20	8	15
North Pine United	7	3	2	2	13	8	11
Redcliffe City	7	2	2	3	15	12	8
Samford	7	3	1	3	10	5	10
Brothers United	7	3	2	2	14	14	11
Ipswich City	7	1	2	4	4	20	5
Browns Plains	7	1	0	6	5	18	3
Pine Hills	7	2	0	5	9	21	6
Greenbank	7	0	1	6	12	28	1

RESULTS

North Pine United	.....2	South Star	.....0
Brothers United	.....1	Samford	.....0
Moggill United	.....7	Greenbank	.....0
Ipswich City	.....1	Southside Eagles	.....1
Redcliffe City	.....0	Pine Hills	.....1
Browns Plains	.....1	Bayside United	.....4

Who has competed in most finals games - Alex Tobin

Zebras players dominate Ericsson Cup finals roll call

BY GREG BLAKE

Adelaide City stalwart and long-time Socceroo Alex Tobin now looks set to continue his reign as the Ericsson Cup's all-time greatest finals player when the 1995/96 series starts in a couple of weeks.

With the red-hot Zebras undefeated in the last 11 games to March 8 and set to go back to the play-offs for a remarkable seventh consecutive season, Tobin is assured of increasing his lead at the head of the all-time finals games list.

Tobin continued his finals record-breaking in last year's play-offs by overtaking no longer active Ian Gray at the head of the list and ended the series — albeit in a beaten grand final team — with 26 post-season matches to his credit.

The man dubbed the play-off king is now currently one game ahead of retired former teammate Joe Mullen and injured South Melbourne midfielder Mike Petersen and virtually cannot be challenged.

Of the mere handful of players still active in the league in a position to challenge only teammate Milan Ivanovic, currently with 21 to his name, has even a remote hope, at least this season.

Petersen, along with the likes of Paul Wade, David Lowe and Paul Trimboli, will not see finals action in 1995/96, although three club goal-ace Francis Awaritefe is edging towards the 20-game mark and will likely add to that in May.

Not that Tobin is alone in the rankings, with those remarkable Zebras boasting six of the top ten and eight players in the top 20.

The list is very much dominated by Adelaide City's recent premiership and grand final heroes such as Mullen, Ivanovic, retired league games record holder Serg Melta, overseas-based Tony Vidmar and Carl Veart and former Socceroo goalkeeper Robbie Zabica.

As for Tobin, his efforts at the business end of the season are the stuff of legends.

It's not just the numbers that suggest that big Alex is, if not the best, at least one the most influential Ericsson Cup hall of famers in the storied 20 year history of the national competition.

And if getting the job done when it counts most is any guide, the Adelaide City champ can surely be ranked as one of the best-ever to play at this level.

Tobin now boasts a clutch of significant finals milestones as testimony to his longevity, his ability, and class in the most demanding of circumstances.

The records include:

- The record number of finals matches;
- The equal most grand final appearances;
- The equal most grand final wins;
- The most consecutive number of finals games;
- The equal record of four consecutive grand finals;
- The equal record of consecutive finals series (providing Adelaide City makes the cut this year);
- And a record two Marston Medals, awarded for the grand final player of the match.

That is an imposing record, even given that some of the Ericsson Cup's greatest-ever stars missed the chance to strut their stuff in the finals in the years 1977 to 1983 — and a one-off in 1987 — when the league was decided on a first past the post basis.

Gray's record after his play-off appearance before severing ties with Marconi was almost equally as remarkable, the former Apia and Marconi veteran having seen post-season action in a still standing record nine of the 11 years in which the finals have counted for everything, missing only the series of 1991/92 and last year.

If nothing else this exclusive ABSW chart is testimony to the strength and consistency of Adelaide City and the ability of new boss John Perin, who took over from Zoran Matic just this season.

Although 10 of the top 27 all-time finals champs are designated one-club Adelaide City stars, only two — Tobin and Ivanovic — are currently active in the Ericsson Cup with City.

ERICSSON CUP ALL-TIME FINALS IMMORTALS

Player	Current club	Clubs played for in Ericsson Cup finals	No. of finals series	Grand Finals	Grand Final wins	Total finals games
Alex TOBIN *	Adel. City	Adel. City	7	5	3	26
Joe MULLEN	n/a	Adel. City	7	5	3	25
Mike PETERSEN*	Sth Melb.	Sth Melb, Melb. Zebras & Heid'g	8	2	2	25
Serg MELTA	n/a	Adel. City	7	5	3	24
Ian GRAY *	n/a	Apia & Marconi	9	4	3	23
Paul WADE	Canberra	Sth Melb, Melb Zebras	8	2	2	22
Steve MAXWELL	n/a	Adel. City	6	3	2	22
Milan IVANOVIC *	Adel. City	Adel. City	6	4	2	21
Paul TRIMBOLI *	Sth. Melb	Sth. Melb	7	1	1	21
Tony VIDMAR	n/a	Adel. City	6	4	2	20
Tony SPYRIADAKOS	n/a	Olympic	6	4	1	19
Steve BLAIR	n/a	Sth Melb.	7	2	2	19
David LOWE *	Newc. Br	Parra. Eagles, Marconi	8	3	2	19
Francis AWARITEFE*	Marconi	Sth. Melb, M. Knights	7	2	0	19
Gary PHILLIPS*	Brisbane	Olympic	5	3	1	18
Robbie ZABICA	n/a	Adel. City	5	3	2	18
Carl VEART	n/a	Adel. City	5	3	2	18
Gary MEIER	n/a	Olympic	6	3	0	18
Grant LEE	n/a	Olympic, Syd. City	7	3	1	18
Mehmet DURAKOVIC	n/a	Sth. Melb, Melb Zebras	6	2	2	17
John-Paul DE MARIGNY *	Marconi	Marconi, Syd. City	8	2	2	17
Paul SHILLABEER	n/a	Adel. City	5	3	2	16
Kimon TALIADOROS *	Olympic	Marconi, Sth Melb	6	2	2	16
Steve CALDERAN	n/a	Marconi	7	3	2	16
Peter KATHOLOS	n/a	Olympic, Marconi	7	4	2	16
Robbie HOOKER *	West Adel.	West Ad, Olympic, Syd City	7	2	1	16

The rest have all retired, headed overseas or switched camps since the 1993/94 grand final.

It is remarkable that despite the combined losses of Mullen, Melta, Vidmar, Veart, Zabica, Shillabeer, Talladira, and Maxwell — each of whom played in three or more grand finals for the club — that the Zebras look headed for another tilt at the title.

Tobin, Mullen and Melta share the record of five Ericsson Cup grand finals each and, along with Gray, they have all been involved in three grand final wins.

Gray has featured in the most consecutive finals series to date — seven — in a run from 1984 to 1990/91, although Tobin will draw level this season.

Tobin holds the record of most consecutive finals games, having played in 26 of a possible 26 for his club since moving into Ericsson Cup ranks before the club made its play-off debut in 1986.

Seven players have made Ericsson Cup finals appearances for three different clubs; Mike Petersen, Marshall Soper, Robbie Hooker, Gerry Gomez, Ernie Tapai, Warren Spink, Robbie Wheatley and Ivan Kelic.

Only two players, current Melbourne Knights John Markovski and Brisbane's Alan Hunter, have appeared in the finals for more than three clubs.

Markovski has carved out 10 finals games for a remarkable five different clubs, starting with Sunshine George Cross (2 games), Preston (1), the Knights (3), Marconi (2) and the Morwell Falcons (2).

Hunter looks destined to add to his current four club/eight appearances record with the Strikers this year after previously playing finals with the Brisbane Lions (2), Heidelberg (1), Sydney United (4) and Parramatta (1).

Several players have played grand finals for two different clubs; they are Alan Davidson, Graham Jennings, Theo Selemidis, Mori, Peter Katholos, Kimon Taliadoros, Mehmet Durakovic, Awaritefe, Wade and Petersen.

However, only a select quartet have won the biggest game of the year with different clubs, with each of the four players with one common thread in their careers.

All four — Petersen, Wade, Durakovic and Taliadoros — teamed up for South Melbourne's defeat of the Knights in 1990/91.

Petersen, Wade and Durakovic had all previously played together in the Melbourne Zebras (previously Brunswick Utd Juventus) team which downed Sydney City in the big game of 1985.

Taliadoros left the Blues for more championship success with Marconi in 1992/93.

And spare a thought for three time losers Gary Meier, Josip Biskic, and David Miller.

All three — Meier with Olympic, Biskic and Miller with the Knights — have been to the biggest game of the year three times without coming away with the major prize.

Damien Mori has also played in three losing grand finals, with the Knights in 1992 and Adelaide City in 1993 and 1995, but this year's goalscoring sensation did break the sequence with a victory with the Zebras in 1994.

Andrew Marth and Mark Silic also played in three losing grand finals as Knights teammates in the heartbreak years of 1991, 1992 and 1994 before finally breaking the drought together last year.

As for big Alex Tobin, if he and his Zebras are back for another shot at the title this year rest assured that he will further cement his place in Ericsson Cup history as one bloke you want on your side when the stakes are highest.

✱ Denotes currently active in Ericsson Cup

- Calculated only on finals matches which counted for championship (ie 1984 to 1986 and 1988 to 1993/94)

- Appearances off bench as substitute are included in totals

- Two-legged grand finals, as played 1984 to 1986, count as two actual finals games played, but only as one win/loss in grand final totals

- Only national grand finals counted in grand final totals (ie 1984 to 1986 divisional grand finals count only as individual finals)

- All statistical references include all Ericsson Cup league games played up to and including games played on Monday, April 3, 1996

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Carlo TALLADIRA *	Morwell	Adel. City	4	3	1	16
Marshall SOPER	n/a	P.Eagles, Woll.C, Olympic	6	2	0	15
Damian MORI *	Adel. City	Adel. City, M. Knight	4	4	1	15
Josip BISKIC	n/a	M. Knights	7	3	0	15
Peter RASKOPOULOS	n/a	Olympic	4	2	0	14
Ivan KELIC	n/a	Sth. Melb, Olympic, M. Knights	6	2	0	14
Theo SELEMIDIS	n/a	Heidelb'g, M. Knights	7	2	0	14
Gerry GOMEZ	n/a	P. Eagles, Marconi, Syd City	7	3	2	14
David HEALY	n/a	Sth. Melb	5	1	1	13
Peter TSOLAKIS	n/a	Sth. Melb, Heidelberg	7	1	1	13
Dave BARRETT *	Olympic	Olympic	5	2	1	13
Graham JENNINGS	n/a	Syd. Utd, Olympic	4	2	0	13
Martyn ROGERS	n/a	Olympic	3	2	0	13
Steve TASIOS	n/a	Sth. Melb, Heidelberg	5	0	0	13
Robbie WHEATLEY	n/a	P. Eagles, Marconi, Blacktown	7	3	2	13
Andrew MARTH *	M. Knights	M. Knights	5	4	1	12
Tony HENDERSON	n/a	Marconi	4	1	1	12
Abbas SAAD	n/a	Olympic, Syd. City	5	1	1	12
Angie POSTECOGLOU	n/a	Sth. Melb	4	2	2	12
Jason POLAK *	Brisbane	Olympic, Sth. Melb	4	1	0	12
Ernie TAPAI *	Morwell	Adel. C, Melb. City, Morwell	4	1	1	12
Con BOUTSIANIS	n/a	Sth. Melb	4	0	0	11
Bruce MACLAREN	n/a	Sth. Melb	4	1	1	11
Danny WRIGHT *	Brisbane	Sth. Melb	5	1	1	11
Andrew BERNAL	n/a	Olympic	4	1	1	11
Robbie IRONSIDE *	Olympic	Olympic	4	2	1	11
Mike COADY	n/a	Olympic	2	2	0	11
Chris KALANTZIS	n/a	Olympic	2	2	0	11
Paul CARTER	n/a	Marconi	4	1	1	11
Alan DAVIDSON	n/a	M. Knights, Sth Melb	5	3	1	11
Warren SPINK *	Morwell	Melb. City, Preston, Morwell	4	0	0	11



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Suns. Georgies	9	8	1	0	19	6	25
Heidelberg Utd	9	7	2	0	28	6	23
Bent. Greens	9	7	0	2	22	8	21
Altona Magic	9	7	0	2	20	8	21
Bulleen Lions	9	4	3	2	13	9	15
Thomast. Zebras	9	4	3	2	13	12	15
Gr. Gully Cav.	9	3	3	3	14	14	12
Box Hill Inter	9	3	1	5	11	17	10
Nt. Gee. Warriors	9	3	1	5	9	18	10
Pt. Melb. Sharks	9	1	5	3	13	18	8
St Alb. Saints	9	2	2	5	10	16	8
Spr. City Vales	9	2	0	7	12	21	6
Fawkner Blues	9	0	2	7	7	21	2
Albion Redsoxs	9	0	1	8	3	20	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bent. Greens	9	8	0	1	27	11	24
Bulleen Lions	8	7	0	1	23	8	21
Pt. Melb. Sharks	9	6	1	2	16	6	19
Thomast. Zebras	8	5	0	3	24	12	15
Albion Redsoxs	8	4	1	3	18	21	13
Heidelberg Utd	9	4	0	5	25	23	12
Box Hill Inter	9	3	3	3	13	14	12
Suns. Georgies	9	3	3	3	16	18	12
Gr. Gully Cav.	9	3	2	4	18	15	11
Fawkner Blues	9	3	2	4	11	22	11
Spr. City Vales	9	3	1	5	26	22	10
St Alb. Saints	9	1	4	4	6	12	7
Altona Magic	8	2	1	5	15	24	7
Nt. Gee. Warriors	9	0	0	9	7	37	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
West. Suburbs	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
Sp. White Eagles	3	2	1	0	8	1	7
Preston Lions	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Kingston City	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Don'ter Rovers	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Moorabbin City	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Northcote City	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Richmond	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Lalor Utd	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Westgate	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Broadmeadows	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Werribee City	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
C'don City Dons	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Glen Eira City	3	0	1	2	1	9	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Don'ter Rovers	3	3	0	0	14	1	9
Werribee City	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
Richmond	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Croydon City	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Northcote City	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Moorabbin City	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Sp. White Eagles	3	1	0	2	8	6	3
Lalor United	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Preston Lions	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Westgate	3	1	0	2	3	11	3
West. Suburbs	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Kingston City	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Broadmeadows	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
Northcote City	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Glen Eira City	3	0	0	3	3	13	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sth Dandenong	3	3	0	0	9	3	9
Ess. Brun. Royals	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
East Richmond	3	2	0	1	7	1	6
Westvale	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
Altona East	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Altona City	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Regent Bulla	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Oakleigh	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Bell Park	3	1	0	2	8	7	3
Mooroolbark	3	1	0	2	2	3	3

Knox City	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Frankston Pines	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Waverley City	3	0	1	2	3	9	1
Nunawading City	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona City	3	3	0	0	11	6	9
Westvale	3	3	0	0	10	6	9
Frank. Pines	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
East Richmond	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
Mooroolbark	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Oakleigh	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Altona East	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Regent Bulla	3	1	0	2	7	7	3
Waverley City	3	1	0	2	7	9	3
Nunawading City	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
Sth Dandenong	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Bell Park	3	0	1	2	5	9	1
Knox City	3	0	0	3	3	7	0
Ess. Brun. Royals	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston	3	3	0	0	16	4	9
Fitzroy City	3	3	0	0	12	4	9
Sth Werribee	3	2	1	0	17	2	7
Ringwood City	3	2	1	0	11	0	7
Cranbourne	3	2	0	1	10	3	6
Sth Spr'vale	3	2	0	1	11	5	6
Pascoe Vale	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Dia. Valley Utd	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Keilor Eagles	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Melbourne City	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Sth Caulfield	3	1	0	2	5	8	0
Banyule	3	0	0	3	1	12	0
Clifton Hill	3	0	0	3	2	15	0
Chelsea	3	0	0	3	4	29	0

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ringwood City	3	3	0	0	15	1	9
Cranbourne	3	3	0	0	13	1	9
Fitzroy City	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
Sth Werribee	3	3	0	0	12	4	9
Sth Spr'vale	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Keilor Eagles	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Melbourne City	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Dia. Valley Utd	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Frankston	3	1	0	2	7	6	3
Pascoe Vale	3	0	0	3	2	12	0
Banyule City	3	0	0	3	2	13	0
Clifton Hill	3	0	0	3	1	13	0
Chelsea	3	0	0	3	3	17	0
Sth Caulfield	3	0	2	1	3	8	-1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Yarraville	3	2	1	0	10	2	7
Langwarrin	3	2	1	0	11	4	7
Sunbury Utd	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Stonnington	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Sun. Heights	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
Monbulk	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Corio	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Geelong	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Nth Coburg Utd	3	1	1	1	6	8	4
Williamstown	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Lalor	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Moreland City	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
Seaford Utd	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
San'tham City	3	0	0	3	3	15	0

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	3	3	0	0	19	3	9
Sunbury Utd	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
S'shine Heights	3	2	0	1	11	2	6
Moreland City	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Nth Coburg Utd	3	2	0	1	4	7	6
Yarraville	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
Lalor	3	1	1	1	5	6	4

Stonnington	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Geelong	3	1	1	1	5	12	4
Corio	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Seaford Utd	3	0	2	1	5	8	2
Williamstown	3	0	1	2	5	7	1
Monbulk	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Sandringham	3	0	0	3	1	13	0

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Scotch/Hawt	3	3	0	0	10	3	9
Melton	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Sth Wantirna	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Knox Park	3	2	0	1	11	6	6
Geel. Rangers	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Mornington	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Keyborough	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Ballarat	3	2	0	1	5	8	6
Sp'vale Condors	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Glenroy	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
Nth Sunshine	3	0	0	3	3	7	0
Heidelberg City	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
Doveton	3	0	0	3	3	9	0
Mitcham Utd	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

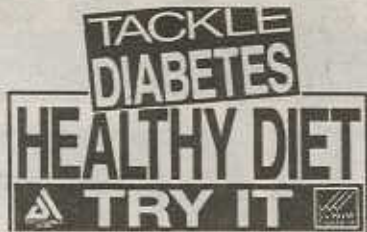
RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	3	3	0	0	10	5	9
Mornington	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
Glenroy	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
Sp'vale Condors	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Keyborough	3	2	0	1	9	7	6
Geelong Rangers	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Ballarat	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Heidelberg City	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Nth Sunshine	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Old Scotch/Hawt	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Melton	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Mitcham Utd	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Sth Wantirna	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Doveton	3	0	0	3	6	10	0

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Braeside Utd	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Lyndale United	3	2	1	0	11	5	7
Croxton	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Endeavour Utd	3	1	1	1	13	5	4
Brunswick City	3	1	1	1	8	9	4
Hoppers Cross.	3	1	1	1	6	9	1
Meadow Park	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Dandenong	3	1	1	1	4	7	4
Brandon Park	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Sth Yarra	3	1	0	2	6	14	3
Hampton Pk Utd	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Nth Glenroy	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
East Nun. Eagles	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Berwick City	3	0	1	2	1	6	1



TACKLE DIABETES



Victorian Premier League

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL ROUND 4

Northcote City	v	Westgate
Moorabbin City	v	Croydon City

SUNDAY, 21ST APRIL

S'vale White Eagles	v	Preston Lions
Doncaster Rovers	v	Richmond
Western Suburbs	v	Glen Eira City
Kingston City	v	Br' Meadows City
Lalor Utd	v	Werribee City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL ROUND 4

Mooroolbark	v	Westvale
Altona City	v	Regent Bulla
Sth Dandenong	v	Knox City
Oakleigh	v	Altona East
Waverley City	v	Frankston Pines
East Richmond	v	Bell Park
Ess. Bruns Royals	v	Nunawading City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

FRIDAY, 19TH APRIL ROUND 4

Ringwood City	v	Sth Springvale
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(Note: Kick-off time Reserves 6.30 pm Firsts 8.30 pm)

SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL

Sth Werribee	v	Banyule City
Cranbourne	v	Clifton Hill
Frankston	v	Pascoe Vale
Fitzroy City	v	Melbourne City
Diamond Valley Utd	v	Chelsea
Sth Caulfield	v	Keilor Eagles

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL ROUND 4

Seaford Utd	v	Moreland City
Nth Coburg Utd	v	Stonnington City
Geelong	v	Monbulk
Williamstown	v	Langwarrin
Sunshine Heights	v	Yarraville
Sunbury Utd	v	Corio
Sandringham City	v	Lalor

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

FRIDAY, 19TH APRIL ROUND 2

Knox Park	v	Mitcham Utd
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(Note: Kick-off time Reserves 6.30 pm Firsts 8.30 pm)

SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL

S'vale Condors	v	Mornington
Melton	v	Sth Wantirna
Geelong Rangers	v	Heidelberg City
Old Scotch/Hawt	v	Glenroy
Doveton	v	Nth Sunshine
Ballarat	v	Keysborough

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL ROUND 2

Meadow Park	v	Berwick Park
Endeavour Utd	v	Lyndale Utd
Croxton	v	South Yarra
Nth Glenroy	v	Hampton Park Utd
Hoppers Crossing	v	Braeside Utd
Brandon Park	v	Brunswick City
Dandenong	v	East Nun, Eagles

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

NORTH/WEST

SUNDAY, 21ST APRIL ROUND 2

Sunshine Park	v	Nothorn Utd
Sydenham Park	v	Nth Reservoir
Upfield	v	Mill Park
West preston	v	Latrobe Uni
Whittlesea Uts	v	Diamond Valley
Darebin Utd	v	Keon Park

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

SOUTH/EAST/CENTRAL

SUNDAY, 21ST APRIL ROUND 2

Noble Park	v	Oakleigh Utd
Flem. Falcons	v	Nth Caulfield
Thornbury	v	Endeavour Hills
Wav. Wanderers	v	Yarra Utd
Ivanhoe Utd	v	Collingwood City
Cam. Gr. Old Boys	v	East Kew

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

METROPOLITAN

SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL ROUND 2

Riversdale	v	Ringwood Rovers
T'stowe Eagles	v	Parkmore
Elwood	v	Melb, Uni Rangers
Uni Melb. Blues	v	Keilor Utd
New B/Yallourn	v	Monash Uni
Ashburton	v	Br'Meadows Utd

BOX HILL 2 SPRINGVALE 1

BY JOHN RIGAS

The big news to come out of the Premier League during the week was the axing of Gus McLeod the former coach of Springvale City Vales. McLeod served Springvale for nine years, a record in the Premier League.

Springvale replaced McLeod with reserves coach John Colangeli, Colangeli remarked that he has a huge task ahead of him. According to Colangeli, captain Doug Nolan quit the club after the Box Hill encounter along with Jason McMinimee.

The performance on the field was a competitive one from the youthful Springvale outfit as they went down 2-1 to Box Hill. Inter had an impact on the scoreboard first when striker Tsakiris found the target.

The Vales equalised in the 25th minute when Amadeo Rosa put in a cross for Vincent De La Plaza who took on a defender and fired his strike into goal.

Springvale looked competitive once they were on level terms and coach Colangeli thought his team was better after the goal. City's celebrations were short lived when Peter Petrakos struck his fourth goal of the campaign.

Inter: Keogh, Pansino, Tartaglia, Dal Ben, Castro, Gugulemi, Guscic, Roadhouse, Mersen, Petrakos, Tsakiris.

Vales: Simpson, R. Vargas, Nolan, Razzi (sent off), Lancaster, D. Grella, A. Vargas (Calomino), P.

Grella, Rosa, De La Plaza, Spina (Giorino).

Votes: 3-De La Plaza (Vales); 2-Petrakos (Inter); 1-Rosa (Vales)

BENTLEIGH 4 NORTH GEELONG 0

BY BOB PROTUDER

Bentleigh Greens brought some late Easter cheer to their loyal supporters with an emphatic 4-0 victory over North Geelong Warriors in an action packed encounter on Saturday.

From the outset, both teams made it clear that they would try to outscore each other. In the 7th minute, Ike Alagiozidis opened the scoring after receiving a through ball from Stelios Drakos, and placed his shot past Joey Didulica.

The second goal was a carbon copy of the first, with Andy Charalambous providing a defence splitting pass for Zoran Todorovski who coolly slotted the ball home after 17 minutes.

The game was put beyond the reach of the Warriors in the 79th minute, with Alagiozidis placed a precise cross onto the chest of Lee Lutton, who tucked the ball under the body of Didulica.

Lutton sealed the result five minutes after, firing into the roof of the net from a goal mouth scramble.

Greens: Laumets, Drakos, Micheil, Thearous, Kourkoutzelos (Bakker), Crivari, Kalimeris, Alagiozidis, Lutton, Todorovski, Charalambous (Caffrey).

Warriors: Joey Didulica, A. Skoko, O'Sullivan, Medved, Cosic, McAulliffe,

Kules (Bot), Dimovski, Trupkovic (Fitzpatrick), Deak, John Didulica.

Referee: Douglas Burt
Votes: 3-Alagiozidis (Greens); 2-Kalimeris (Greens); 1-Lutton (Greens)

THOMASTOWN 1 ALBION 0

BY NICHOLAS
TZAFERIS

The penalty converted by Zebra, Joe Tricarico, in Sunday's clash at Partridge Reserve extended Albion's runs of outs condemning the Redsox to their eighth loss of the season.

Albion have how collected just one point from nine games and have netted only three goals.

Tricarico won a 53rd minute penalty after being bundled over by challenges from Aki Kotzamichalis and Cladue Lucchesi and easily beat Robert Brian from the spot.

The game was played on a waterlogged pitch which had a detrimental effect on the quality of the game.

Thomastown, who missed the drive of Andrew Zinni, Danny Gnjdic and Paul Della Rocca, where in control for most of the game and where rarely threatened by the ailing Albion side.

Zebras: Gonzalez, Banini (Iaccovitti), Angelovski, Karic, Emmanule, Tricarico, Lazarevski, Mazzini, Lingurovski (Bichler), Boshini, Ngata.

Redsox: Brian, Grimuad, Osman, Lucchesi, Wilson, Donnelly, Collins, Geri (Hulusi), Kotsamichalis, Carter, Gupinar (Patsaman).

Referee: Nestor Zachariadis
Votes: 3-Tricarico (Zebras); 2-Ngata (Zebras); 1-Osman (Redsox)

SUNSHINE 2 FAWKER 1

BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

Sunshine Georgies showed why they are championship contenders with a gutsy 2-1 win over winless Fawknr

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 9

Box Hill Inter 2 (Tsakiris, Petrakos) — Springvale City Vales 1 (De La Plaza)
Bentleigh Greens 4 (Alagiozidis, Todorovski, Lutton 2) — North Geelong Warriors 0
Bulleen Lions 2 (Everetts, Di Iorio) — Altona Magic 1 (T. Markovski)
Sunshine Georgies 2 (S. Markovski, Daglaras) — Fawknr Blues 1 (Psarros)
Green Gully Cavaliers 0 — Heidelberg United 2 (Kirtzoglou, Obradovic)
Thomastown Zebras 1 (Tricarico) — Albion Redsox 0
St Albans Saints 1 (M. Colina) — Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Mitroulas)

Blues.

A Steve Wardle fumble, followed by a goal mouth scramble, allowed Peter Psarros to put Fawknr ahead after just one minute.

Following the goal, Sunshine began to attack relentlessly, but poor finishing, especially from Juan Nilo, saw the Blues leading at the interval.

Substitute Sash Markovski equalised for the Georgies for the second successive game when he put away a great cross from Nilo in the 71st minute.

Chris Daglaras scored the winner for Sunshine six minutes later when he

punished Fawknr's debutant 'keeper Damian Beattie for a goal line fumble.

Georgies: Wardle, De Bono, Kanesoulis, Cassar, Dragicevic, Field, Aretis, Nilo, Daglaras, Tsirtakis (Markovski), De La Plaza (McMinimee).

Blues: Beattie, Vasiliadis, Schipano, Tramontana (Di Sacro), Ferla, Branov, Minishiello, Psarros, Recchia (Mihocic), Kuzman (Vukadin), Thodis.

Votes: 3-De Bono (Georgies); 2-Kanesoulis (Georgies); 1-Cassar (Georgies)

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NEXT WEEKS DRAW

ROUND 10

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Springvale City Vales v
Thomastown Zebras
(8.30pm Kick-Off)

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Pt Melbourne Sharks v
Bentleigh Greens

North Geelong Warriors v
Bulleen Lions

Albion Redsox v
St Albans Saints

Melbourne Warriors v
Box Hill Inter

Fawknr Blues v
Green Gully Cavaliers

Altona Magic v
Sunshine Georgies



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SATURDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE

◆ Premier League
◆ State League
Divisions
1 to 3
(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)

0055 38898

SATURDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE

◆ State League
Division 4
◆ Provisional
League Divisions 1-3
(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)

(PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 0055 38878)

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

QAS NEW CLUB CHAMPIONS

Queensland Academy of Sport are the new National Club Champions after dominating the annual Easter Challenge at Seymour Shaw, Miranda in Sydney's southern suburbs.

Qualifying for the event as 1995 Brisbane league champions, QAS had clearly the strongest side on paper including guest internationals Sonia Gegenhuber and Lisa Dunne, in addition to

League champions Marconi in the final, putting away three goals in the second stanza after a 0-0 scoreline at half-time.

Undeclared over the weekend was the Australian Youth Select, competing not for points but for the additional competition. An assembly of some of today's brightest emerging talent, the side produced an entertaining brand of skilful attacking football complete

added an extra dimension to the tournament for clubs and spectators alike.

Also contesting the club title were ACT's Canberra City and Burns Stormbirds, and NSW's Sutherland Shire. The two Canberra rivals ended up playing each other for third place, with City the victors. Sutherland found the going tough with a sluggish first day's performance. However their last match was a spirited effort, going down by just a single goal to Australian Youth.

The final played on Easter Sunday afternoon promised to be a thrilling display, QAS with its riches of internationals, and Marconi who had improved over the course of the tournament.

QAS, although playing well over the first two days, it was felt they still had something in reserve to perform at their absolute best.

Marconi, without any guest players, overall fielded a young squad including four 15-year-olds. Their side was stretched on the final day with injuries to Traci Bartlett, Amanda Stickland and Bridget Harries.

The opening 15 minutes were evenly contested, each side seeking out any chinks in their opponent's armour. Marconi looked the more dangerous in attack during this period, but were up against a solid QAS defence.

The Queenslanders then settled into the game and never looked back. Dominating possession for the remainder of the half, they opened numerous goalscoring opportunities, building attacks from the back with great composure. World Cup player Gegenhuber, in midfield,

with some spectacular goals, in winning each of their six matches.

The youngsters gelled well, despite their little time together, and performed admirably against their older opponents. Just one goal was conceded over the three days. Their participation

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION



made some great runs into scoring positions, with some five shots on goal without

Amanda Paterson to keep the score level going into the break.

QAS launched straight back into attack from the second half kick-off, finally converting their dominance onto the scoreboard with a goal in the first minute. Following an early corner, the ball was fed back up the left to Thornton, who beat one defender and blasted her shot into the top far corner of the net from an acute



Olivia Hohnke: The QAS player leaves her Marconi marker standing.



Tammie Thornton: Opened the scoring in the final for QAS.



Anissa Tann-Darby: Seen in action for Marconi in the final against QAS.

string together some impressive passages of play of their own. But a stray final pass or an unrelenting QAS defence prevented them finding the equaliser.

With 10 minutes remaining, QAS went further ahead, Dunne pouncing on a poor pass in Marconi's defensive third. Looking up to see Paterson off her line, Dunne cleverly looped in her shot, finding the target inside the far post.

Four minutes later, QAS continued their rout with a third, Gegenhuber rewarded for her hard work with the simplest of goals on the back post. Unmarked a metre in front of goal, Gegenhuber latched onto a fine cross from the right, heading into

the empty net for a deserved 3-0 victory.

QAS: Belinda Kitching, Kelly Polakow, Sarah Garven, Sonia Gegenhuber, Olivia Hohnke (April Mann 61st), Corinne Currey, Louise McMurtrie, Kim Revell, Brooke Short, Lisa Dunne, Tammie Thornton.

Coach — Connie Selby.

MARCONI: Amanda Paterson, Hannah Burton, Vicki Linton, Anissa Tann-Darby, Wendy Graham, Melissa Link (Michelle Carney 59th), Taryn Rockall, Kristie Smith (Neisha Klessathal 67th), Carly Copeland, Alisa Winner (Bridget Harries 42nd), Jane Hornsby.

Coach — Anissa Tann-Darby.

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1996 NATIONAL CLUBS CHALLENGE

Day One — Fri April 5

Australian Youth Select 1 (Kelly Golebiowski) beat Marconi 0
QAS 1 (Kim Revell) beat Sutherland Shire 0.
Canberra City 2 (Sunni Hughes 2) beat Burns Stormbirds 0
Marconi 1 (Jane Hornsby) beat Sutherland Shire 0
Australian Youth Select 4 (Joanne Peters, Danielle Small, Elizabeth Cotton, Nicole Davis) beat Burns Stormbirds 0
QAS 3 (Sonia Gegenhuber 2, Kim Revell) beat Canberra City 0
Burns Stormbirds 3 (Tracey Carr, Vahn Mathongsy, Kristy Moore) beat Sutherland Shire 1 (Rochelle Doyle)

Day Two — Sat April 6

Australian Youth Select 3 (Lisa Casagrande 2, Joanne Peters) beat Canberra City 0
Marconi 2 (Jane Hornsby, Anissa Tann-Darby) beat Burns Stormbirds 0
Australian Youth Select 2 (Joanne Peters, Elizabeth Cotton) beat QAS 1 (Kim Revell)
Canberra City 3 (Amy Wilson, Amy Taylor, Sunni Hughes) beat Sutherland Shire 1 (Julie Murray)
QAS 1 (Sonia Gegenhuber) beat Marconi 0
Australian Youth Select 3 (Lisa Casagrande 3) beat Sutherland 0
QAS 4 (Kim Revell 3, Tammie Thornton) beat Burns Stormbirds 1 (Jennifer Curtis)
Marconi 2 (Jane Hornsby 2) beat Canberra City 1 (Amy Wilson)

Final Ladder:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Aust. Youth Select**	5	5	0	0	13	1	15
QAS	5	4	0	1	9	3	12
Marconi	5	3	0	2	5	3	9
Canberra City	5	2	0	3	6	9	6
Burns Stormbirds	5	1	0	4	4	12	3
Sutherland Shire	5	0	0	5	2	11	0

**Australian Youth Select were not officially playing for points in this event.

Day Three — Sun April 7

Playoffs:

Australian Youth Select 1 (Jodie Randall) beat Sutherland Shire 0
Canberra City 2 (Heather Birnie, Sunni Hughes) beat Burns Stormbirds 1 (Karen Searle)

Final:

QAS 3 (Tammie Thornton 36th, Lisa Dunne 60th, Sonia Gegenhuber 64th) beat Marconi 0

ITALY's Serie A & B

TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC Milan	30	19	9	2	49	18	66
Juventus	30	17	6	7	51	30	57
Fiorentina	30	15	8	7	49	34	53
Inter	30	14	8	8	47	27	50
Lazio	30	14	7	9	57	34	49
Parma	30	13	10	7	39	28	49
Roma	30	13	9	8	40	30	48
Sampdoria	30	13	8	9	51	41	47
Vicenza	30	13	8	9	33	31	47
Udinese	30	10	7	13	35	41	37
Atalanta	30	10	6	14	34	45	36
Napoli	30	8	11	11	24	35	35
Cagliari	30	9	7	14	29	45	34
Piacenza	30	8	8	14	27	47	32
Bari	30	7	7	16	42	61	28
Cremonese	30	5	10	15	35	48	25
Torino	30	5	10	15	26	42	25
Padova	30	6	3	21	37	68	21

SERIE A

Atalanta.....3	Cagliari.....0
Bari.....2	Cremonese.....1
Internazionale.....8	Padova.....2
Lazio.....2	Parma.....1
Napoli.....0	AC Milan.....1
Piacenza.....1	Torino.....0
Udinese.....1	Fiorentina.....0
Vicenza.....2	Roma.....1
Juventus.....0	Sampdoria.....3

SERIE A MIDWEEK

Atalanta.....1	Bari.....2
Cagliari.....1	Milan.....2
Internazionale.....0	Sampdoria.....2
Juventus.....2	Udinese.....1
Lazio.....4	Fiorentina.....0
Napoli.....1	Torino.....0
Padova.....1	Roma.....2
Parma.....2	Cremonese.....0
Piacenza.....0	Vicenza.....1

SERIE A LEADING GOALSCORERS

22	Protti (Bari)
20	Signori (Lazio)
18	Batistuta (Fiorentina)
	Branca (Inter)
	Chiesa (Sampdoria)
14	Oliveira (Cagliari)
13	Caccia (Piacenza)
	Bierhoff (Udinese)
	Casiraghi (Lazio)
12	Ravanelli (Juventus)
	Otero (Vicenza)
11	Amoruso (Padova)
	Balbo (Roma)
	Ganz (Inter)

Samp shock Juve

Enrico Chiesa scored 28 seconds after kickoff as Sampdoria shocked host Juventus 3-0 to snap the Turin side's six-match winning streak and virtually end its hope of a repeat Italian league title.

Defender David Balleri and Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf, both assisted by Chiesa, added second-half goals for seventh-place Samp which boosted its chances for a UEFA Cup berth with its first win at Juve since 1983.

The match was played last Saturday to give Juve an extra day to prepare for tomorrow's (Wednesday) Champions' Cup semi-final return match against Nantes, in France.

Juve won the first leg 2-0 on April 3.

Chiesa, fighting to make the Italian team for June's European Championship, moved to third in the league with his 19th goal, running on to meet Balleri's free kick from midfield and slamming the ball in off the bounce from eight metres.

Knowing a win was vital to keep the pressure on Milan, Juve pressed on offence and left itself open to counter attacks.

In the 56th minute, Chiesa found Balleri on the right side of the penalty area, and the defender angled the precise pass between the post and international goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi.

Seedorf rocketed home the final goal six minutes later, slotting home a shot from 12 metres for his second goal in Italy.



Clarence Seedorf: Added a second half goal.

PLAYERS STRIKE CANCELLED

The head of Italy's soccer players union said that a planned Serie A strike on April 20 had been "temporarily suspended".

Sergio Campana told reporters after leaving the Italian soccer federation's headquarters that the AIC union had decided to lift the immediate threat of a strike because agreement had been reached on a number of important issues.

The suspension was also agreed because the league was meeting government officials on April 18.

Campana said the union would meet again in the final week of April to discuss the strike which could still be held in May.

The Italian soccer season ends on May 12.

Campana said the union had reached agreement on a key guarantee fund to help players whose clubs folded.

Italian Serie A players staged an unprecedented strike on March 16 and 17 over a range of grievances.

They made up the lost matches last Wednesday (see summary on this page).

The issues include maintaining limits on players from outside the European Union in the wake of the European Court's recent Bosman ruling and they are seeking the immediate abolition of transfer fees at the end of the current season.

Internazionale strike eight times

AC Milan all but clinched the first division title on Sunday with a 1-0 away win against Napoli after second placed Juventus of Turin dropped its home match against Genoa's Sampdoria 3-0 on Sunday, bringing the standings gap between the two title contenders nine points.

In its match against Napoli, AC Milan again proved that it has a rich choice of players to take the field with defender Panucci scoring the winning goal. Juve must now concentrate on its champions league return semi-final match in France against Nantes, which it beat in the first leg.

With the title practically in Milan's pocket, attention was focused on those teams vying

for a berth in next season's UEFA Cup championship. Fiorentina suffered a surprise loss against Udinese but remains in place for a UEFA spot, while Internazionale of Milan continued its comeback and with an 8-2 win over last-placed Padova pulled into fourth place and a good crack at UEFA berth.

Parma and Lazio are in fifth place, with Lazio beating Parma, but may find themselves competing for a place in the UEFA cup with Roma and season cinderella Vicenza, which beat Roma, while Sampdoria is still not out of the UEFA picture.

Udinese's win over Fiorentina pulled it definitively out of the relegation area while Padova is headed for

the second division with the likely company of Cremonese and Torino, which lost respectively against Bari and Piacenza. For Torino this is a season to forget, one marked by management mistakes, bad luck with referees and just plain bad luck.

Bari continues to keep its hopes alive to stay in the first division, just four points behind Piacenza, and has the advantage over Cremonese with its striker Protti, who once again leads the scoring charts with 22.

Atlanta and Cagliari, along with Napoli, should have no problem of seeing another first division year.

Apology for Ince

England's Paul Ince, who suffered racist taunts in a recent match against Cremonese, has been sent a written apology from the city mayor of Cremona.

Mayor Paolo Bodini sent a letter to the Inter Milan midfielder and his club president Massimo Moratti saying: "Please accept our sincerest apologies for the deplorable rudeness."

The mayor also offered the prospect of a civic reception for the 28-year-old former Manchester United star when he next visits.

Ince was apparently well-satisfied with the apology.

Inter spokesman Gino Franchetti said: "He was pleased and genuinely moved. The fax arrived in the evening and at Ince's request, it was translated for him."

SERIE B

Ancona.....1	Pescara.....1
Bologna.....2	Foggia.....0
F Andria.....1	Chievo V.....1
Genoa.....2	Brescia.....2
Lucchese.....2	Venezia.....0
Perugia.....2	Cosenza.....1
Pistoiese.....2	Palermo.....1
Reggiana.....1	Avellino.....0
Reggina.....1	Salernitana.....1
Verona.....6	Cesena.....1

TABLE

Verona	30	14	10	6	40	25	52
Salernitana	30	12	11	7	35	21	47
Perugia	30	12	10	8	38	32	46
Reggiana	30	12	10	8	29	24	46
Bologna	30	10	15	5	28	18	45
Lucchese	30	11	12	7	35	32	45
Cesena	30	11	9	10	38	34	42
Pescara	30	11	9	10	34	36	42
Cosenza	30	9	13	8	35	34	40
Venezia	30	9	12	9	27	30	39
Palermo	30	8	15	7	26	30	39
Chievo V	30	7	17	6	30	24	38
Genoa	30	10	8	12	43	41	38
F Andria	30	8	13	9	35	32	37
Ancona	30	10	6	14	37	39	36
Brescia	30	9	7	14	33	39	34
Avellino	30	9	7	14	29	40	34
Reggina	30	7	12	11	28	41	33
Foggia	30	8	8	14	20	36	32
Stoiese	30	6	10	14	26	38	28

China here they come!

AC Milan, Lazio and Napoli will lead an Italian exodus next month as clubs head for Asia after the championship draws to an end.

China is the favourite destination for the friendly tours and Milan and Lazio will make stops there.

A spokesman from Milan, which is heading for its fourth Italian league title in five years, said the club would tour China in late May but dates have yet to be finalised.

Lazio will play the Chinese national team in

Beijing on May 16 before two club fixtures against Jinan Taishan in Jinan on May 21 and against Yanbian at Cancun on May 24.

It then will leave for a friendly against the Indonesian national side in Jakarta on May 26.

Lazio spokesman Mario Pennachia told AFP, "We're going to China partly for commercial reasons and partly for promotional reasons."

"We're going to China this year, but we've been to Japan twice in recent years. We believe these tours are important for the

worldwide image of Lazio."

Napoli Club spokesman Carlo Iulianos said, "We've signed a contract for two friendlies in China after the championship in May, and there might be further matches to follow."

"We're still working out the details, but one of them at least will be in Beijing."

"China is a great country, and there's enormous interest there in Italian football. Napoli are already well-known in China, even though this will be the first time we've toured there."

France and Spain in top four

**EURO '96 A
PERSONAL VIEW**

**GUEST COLUMN BY
GERRY VAN DUUREN**

Often soccer fans are wondering who are favourites to do well in the major competitions for countries, such as the World Cup, South-American and European Championship etc. Brazil and Germany are often chosen as favourites for the World Cup together with Italy and then some countries who are potentially very strong but never quite make it all the time. One such country is Argentina. Then there are the in-form countries of that particular period.

One such big nation's competition is almost here, namely the European nations cup. Which countries are bound to do well?

If you look at the past, often a marker for finalists are the European Club Championships.

As the semi-finals are going to be played we have three French clubs (that is in all cups they have a representative), two Dutch teams, Italian, German, Czech Republic, two Spanish, Greek and one Austrian team left in the three competitions.

Now it would be very presumptuous to make a definitive prediction of who is going to win the European Nations Cup.

But on past history as we correlate results in the three competitions we would include France, Holland, Spain and one other.

This is of course if this year's cup follows the trend

of past years.

So who would be that "one other"?

England is favoured because of home advantage, and their strong motivation to do well plus an abundance of really wonderful strikers such as Fowler, Ferdinand and Shearer just to name a few!

And what about Germany and Italy? Countries which have a history of always performing well in major competitions.

No one gave Italy much of a chance in the last World Cup. But if I remember that year they did exceptionally well in the three major club competitions and ended up playing Brazil in the final of the World Cup.

When I was in Germany in July I spoke to many officials and they were not confident that under Berti Vogts the national team will do well.

However he may prove them wrong as Germany has had a string of good performances in the qualifying round and the latest friendlies, all won.

It is my opinion that France will go well because they play good attacking soccer with flair and pace.

If anyone saw Bordeaux versus AC Milan for instance and saw the quality of the game, especially played by the French, where the above qualities were displayed, would agree on these points.

There were spells where the French played one-touch football but played it at incredible speed. Stunning to behold.

The Dutch are too erratic to conclusively predict. If they feel motivated on the

day they are dangerous. If they play against a team often lowly ranked they get done. Or, they have internal troubles.

England has a strong team

on paper but where England goes wrong is that they do not put in creative midfielders that can make use of the brilliant forwards they possess.

Even the backs have to be creative and Nottingham Forest's Stuart Pearce isn't that.

The Spanish will do well because they have the organisation in their to play

attractive and yet effective football.

There is one difference between Spanish or Italian and for instance England.

The Spanish and Italian style often warrants a playmaker and the other, a forward around which the team is built. England play as a collective unit and everyone is forced to chase and work.

The Spanish and Italians have a bunch of players who serve those players around whom the team is built. Perhaps, at the moment Spain is lacking one of those players and I can see that Juan de la Pena will fulfill this role in the future.

It is not my opinion that all English football is played kick and rush, the use of the long ball only. If you had seen Aston Villa on Easter Sunday you would agree that this notion is not accepted anymore, nor by the top clubs. The ball does circulate but where some of the English make a mistake is in the precision of the execution and the first touch.

If they do not become successful in the European Championships it is in their defence that they often do not have an answer to the quick turning of a European striker and also in one on one the situations where the attacker has room and time to take on a defender.

So where does this all compare to an Australian style?

Dutch journalists have criticised Australian coaches for letting their strikers do too much

chasing. They reckon this will lead to problems when goal scoring opportunities are being created. They will have less power to shoot or to run at a defender because of loss of strength when needed.

A classic example was Aurelio's week shot when the goal was there for the taking, against Scotland recently. Also, the current national team lacks a team plan. A wait and see attitude then become more adventurous. Why let poor Carl Veart do all the running and chasing all by himself and then take him off?

Clearly with one man up front and no wingers we won't be scoring too many goals. Only in 15 minutes of play in the second half did we attack the Scots on the flank. It is clear to see for everyone that we need creative people in midfield or a playmaker such as Paul Okon but give him players up front to make use of his talents.

In summary my predictions are that the following may make the top four and I know that I will offend a lot of nationalities but someone has to win it.

1. France
2. Spain
3. Holland
4. Germany

The dark horses are the Czechs and the Croats who will do well in this comp.

Italy will have to work hard to find the right combination of players and unfortunately some of their stars are out of form, but in form they are going to be hard to beat.

England has to have more than good strikers to produce results.



Patrice Loko: Striker for France who could have big influence on his country's fortunes in England



Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISKOVICH



PROFILE *on Croatia (Dinamo) Zagreb*

FORMED: 1945
STADIUM: Maksimir, Zagreb
CAPACITY: 56,555
FAN CLUB: B.B.B (Bad Blue Boys)
CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1948, 1954, 1958, 1982, 1993
CUPS: 1951, 1960, 1963, 1965, 1969, 1980, 1983, 1994
BEST RESULT IN EUROPE: ● UEFA Cup Champion 1966
 ● Finalist UEFA Cup in 1962
 ● Bruno Wolf
 ● Drzen Jerkovic top goalscorer in World Cup in 1962
 ● Vladimir Markovic
 ● Velimir Zajec
BEST EVER PLAYERS: Zlatko Kranjcar and Zvezdan Cvetkovic
COACHES:

GOALKEEPERS		MIDFIELDERS	
Tomislav Butina	30-3-74	Josip Gaspar	15-3-73
Miralem Ibrahimovic	18-1-63	Domagoj Kusic	11-11-75
Drazen Ladic	1-1-63	Marko Milinovic	1-9-60
DEFENDERS		Edin Mujcin	14-1-70
Mario Cvitanovic	6-5-75	Alen Petrovic	5-11-69
Damir Krznar	10-7-72	Tom Rukavina	14-10-74
Zoran Mamic	30-9-71	Daniel Saric	4-8-72
Srdan Mladinic	26-8-69	FORWARDS	
Tomislav Nakic	21-10-72	Igor Cvitanovic	1-11-70
Zvonimir Soldo	2-11-67	Mirza Golubica	18-5-65
Dario Simic	12-11-75	Miljenko Kovacic	19-3-73
Daniel Stefuj	2-6-76	Zoran Sliskovic	1-3-66
Dzevad Turkovic	17-8-72	Mark Viduka (Aust)	9-10-75

PROFILE *on Hajduk Split*

FORMED: 1911
STADIUM: Poljud, Split
CAPACITY: 50,000
FAN CLUB: Torcida
CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1927, 1929, 1941, 1950, 1952, 1955, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1992, 1994, 1995
CUPS: 1967, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1984, 1987, 1991, 1993, 1995
BEST RESULT IN EUROPE: Cro Super Cup '92, '93, '94
 ● Semi finals of UEFA Cup 1984
 ● Semi final of Cup Winners Cup 1974
BEST EVER PLAYERS: ● Bernad Vukas ● Ivan Buljan ● Ivica Surjak
 ● Vladimir Beara ● Jurica Jerkovic
COACHES: Mirko Jozic and Fredi Fiorentini

GOALKEEPERS		MIDFIELDERS	
Tonci Gabric	11-11-61	Aljosa Asanovic	14-12-65
Anthony Tokpah (Lib)	26-7-77	DEFENDERS	
DEFENDERS		Darko Butorovic	12-8-70
Niko Ceko	13-2-69	Mirsad Hibic (Bos)	11-10-73
Steve Horvat (Aust)	14-3-71	Darko Jozinovic	15-8-70
Ivan Juric	25-8-75	Damir Vuica	7-1-72
Mario Bozicovic	21-8-73	STRIKERS	
Igor Leko	7-2-78	Ivo Cuzzi	28-6-69
Mario Mestrovic	22-5-70	Renato Juric	4-6-66
Nenad Pralija	11-12-70	Milan Rapac	16-8-73
Josip Skoko (Aust)	10-12-75	Mass Sarr (Lib)	6-2-75
Igor Tudor	16-4-78		
Jurica Vucko	8-10-76		
Kazimir Vulic	8-2-67		



GAOL FOR SWEDISH HOOLIGANS

Four Swedish hooligans were sentenced last week to prison sentences.

The fans of Swedish club Djurgården IF of Stockholm were punished for their behaviour at the June 13 match at Halmstad in the southwest of the country.

Three supporters aged 22 were sent to prison for a year and a 17-year-old was given three months. Their identities were not revealed.

They must also pay a total of \$A5,000 to a 22-year-old Halmstad fan they kicked and punched after he left a restaurant following the match.

BUDESLIGA TO IGNORE BOSMAN

Presidents of the 36 professional German clubs last week decided to ignore the Bosman ruling and keep the current transfer system in place until the end of next season.

Belgium's Jean-Marc Bosman won a ruling in the European Court in December allowing players to become free agents to go abroad without a transfer fee at the end of their contracts.

The court also judged illegal the three-man limit on foreign players in European competitions.

UEFA officially accepted both rulings in March.

But the lack of transfer fees would cause many clubs, particularly the smaller ones, financial problems resulting in the first and second division presidents voting in a compromise by 26 votes to 10.

Players for now will still have transfer fees at the end of contracts, but for about half the usual amount.

Also, all professional clubs will contribute to a \$A42.17 million pool. Clubs will then apply for compensation for any shortfall because of the decreased value of their players.

WEAH FEARS FOR LOVED ONES

World player of the year, George Weah said last week he feared for his friends and family in Liberia and called on the United States to intervene as factional fighting raged in his West African homeland.

"I hope the United States can intervene as they have done elsewhere," said the AC Milan striker, who is recovering from a broken arm.

Weah, the 1995 European, African and World player of the year, said he was worried by the news and hoped to visit

Liberia as soon as he could.

Probably the best-known of his countrymen in the world, Weah said he had written an appeal and hoped Liberian newspapers would print it.

"It's very hard for me to work and play with what is happening, but I must," he said.

Feyenoord faithful from the away leg of the semi-final after 200 German and Dutch fans were arrested and nine German policemen injured in the quarter-final match on March 7 against German side Borussia Mönchengladbach.

"We showed that we were not responsible for

who did not have one. That caused the trouble," said Feyenoord president Van den Henrik.

"I deplore the actions of those supporters of our club who have brought this punishment on us."

The Feyenoord supporters who had already bought tickets for the return leg will be

house of European trophies, was held 1-1 at home by the Austrians, who last year were finalists.

REAL TROUBLE IN MADRID

Struggling Spanish champion Real Madrid has dropped four of its stars.

Coach Arsenio Iglesias, who replaced sacked Argentinian Jorge Valdano in January, will not select Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano, the club's top scorer last season, 1994 World Cup star Luis Enrique, veteran defender Manuel Sanchis and former Spanish captain Michel, for the rest of the season.

The Madrid directors believe Zamorano and Enrique are not sufficiently motivated, as their contracts finish in June, and Sanchis and Michel are not in form.

Michel also angered Iglesias on Saturday when he incited the crowd to protest against his substitution.

"We must stay calm but it would be better if the President and the directors did the same," said Zamorano.

BETTING TO STOP CORRUPTION

Singapore's experiment with professional football is kicking off amid a debate over whether legalised soccer betting should be permitted to help keep out corruption.

The S-League was inaugurated on Sunday with an exhibition match at the National Stadium between a Singapore All-Stars side

and the Thai national side.

Officials said the Singapore Sports Council is looking into a betting system which could generate funds to promote the sport and prevent match-fixing by syndicates in this soccer mad city state.

The Sports Council is tapping, among others, the Singapore Turf Club for advice on how to go about the task, and may seek the assistance of British and Australian experts, officials said.

Organised betting could be one way of raising funds to promote football and it is conceded that betting was a reality, particularly in Chinese society.

The eight-club S-League takes off after months of efforts following Singapore's withdrawal from the Malaysia Cup early last year.

The pullout came after the Football Association of Malaysia said it was not satisfied with the republic's commitment to stamping out match-fixing.

PARKING TICKET FURORE

A parking ticket given to the coach of a Spanish team by a policeman who supports its arch-rival has caused controversy in Seville.

Real Betis manager Lorenzo Serra Ferrer reacted angrily to the fine and was detained for four hours on Saturday by a policeman who is a season-ticket holder at

neighbour Sevilla.

Serra Ferrer could be given a prison sentence if found guilty of kicking the officer. The coach denies the charge.

"The whole incident is because of the pain of the 21-point advantage," said Betis owner Manuel Ruiz de Lopera, whose team is currently 15 places higher than Seville in the league.

Ruiz de Lopera held the officer responsible for Betis's dropping two points in Sunday's 2-2 home draw with Racing Santander and said he would break off relations with the Town Hall.

A Town Hall official, quoted last week in the sports daily Marca, denied victimisation and said the rules were the same for everybody.

MOZABICANS PULL OUT

Mozambican side, Desportivo, has withdrawn from the African League Champions Cup due to financial problems, a local newspaper reported last week.

The team's executive director, Miguel Maita, said the decision was reached after a sponsor, the Muslim League, refused to organise the first leg of the finals between Desportivo and Zamalek of Egypt scheduled for May in Cairo.

The alternative of the match being played in Maputo was also dropped.

The costs of accommodating and feeding the visiting players were too high, the Muslim League vice chairman, Faizal Sidat said.



George Weah: On top of the football world but greatly concerned about his home country and his family.

"I must wait and have faith. For the moment I have no news, I don't know what is happening to my family and friends.

I have not been able to speak with them. As soon as I can I would like to take them away from there," added Weah.

TURKEY WIN AWAY

In the Azerbaijan capital of Baku last Tuesday, Turkey beat the home country by the only goal of the game before a crowd of 30,000.

Turkey's team consisted mainly of second string players as they prepare for Euro 96. The goal came in the 48th minute from Rahim.

DUTCH BANNED FROM VIENNA

UEFA has refused an appeal from Dutch Cup Winners' Cup semi-finalist Feyenoord that its fans should be allowed into the second leg match against Rapid Vienna on April 18 in the Austrian capital.

UEFA banned the

our supporters behaviour, and that it was German fans who resold their tickets to those of our fans

reimbursed by the club.

The Dutch club, seeking to win the Cup Winners' Cup to complete a full



Diego Simeone: Atletico's Argentine midfield dynamo.

ATLETICO FOR DOUBLE?

A rare header by Serbian A-winger Milinko Pantic in extra time gave Atletico Madrid a 1-0 victory over Barcelona in the Spanish Cup Final last week.

It was Atletico's third cup success in five years after victories in 1991 and 1992.

Pantic, a set-piece specialist who normally only scores with his feet, popped up to glance a superb header past Barcelona keeper Carlos Busquets near the end of the first period of extra time.

"My first title, now we're going to win the league," said Pantic, who has played a major role in Atletico's revival after narrowly avoiding relegation last season.

The final was dominated by Spain's most miserly defences, who allowed only a handful of half-chances in the first hour of play before both teams appeared to tire.

Atletico's off-side trap

was particularly effective in catching the Barcelona attack where both Romanian international Gheorghe Hagi and striker Jordi Cruyff looked sluggish and short of match form.

Just 30 minutes into the match, Hagi found space in the area but failed to control the ball and shot wide under pressure.

Jordi almost connected with a cross from Sergi Barjuan midway through the second half and then headed another ball from Barjuan against the bar.

For Atletico the best chances fell to Jose Luis Caminero, who twice went close to capitalising on mistakes by Busquets.

But Caminero played a poor game, and it was Pantic and Argentine midfield dynamo Diego Simeone who carried the play from the Atletico midfield.



In injury time Hagi was again at fault when he skyed a volley after Atletico keeper Juan Molina mistimed a run out of his area.

But Pantic's header, from a cross by defender Delfi Geli, proved decisive.

Both teams will now turn their attention to the league where Atletico have allowed Barcelona to erode an 11-point lead at the half-way stage to just three points.

The two sides will meet again in 10 days in what could be the deciding game in the championship.

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

— April 13 —

Chelsea 4 (Hughes 19th, 35th, 48th pen, Spencer 20th) Leeds 1 (McAllister 66th) Half-time 3-0. Attendance: 22,131.

Coventry 1 (Jess 69th) Queens Park Rangers 0. 0-0. 22,910

Manchester City 1 (Rosler 65th) Sheffield Wednesday 0. 0-0. 30,898

Middlesbrough 1 (Fleming 23rd) Wimbledon 2 (Earle 12th, Ekoku 64th) 1-1. 29,192

Nottingham forest 1 (Woan 41st) Blackburn 5 (Shearer 27th),McKinlay 31st, Wilcox 45th, 68th, Fenton 83rd). 1-3. 25,273

Southampton 3 (Monkou 11th, Shipperley 23rd, Le Tissier 43rd) Manchester United (Giggs 89th) 3-0. 15,262

West Ham 1 (Cottee 28th) Bolton 0. 1-0. 23,086

Newcastle 1 (Ferdinand 64m) Aston Villa 0. (0-0). Attendance: 36,510.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Barnsley.....0	Reading.....1
Birmingham.....4	Luton.....0
Crystal palace.....2	Southend.....0
Huddersfield.....3	Millwall.....0
Oldham.....0	Wolverhampton.....0
Sheffield United.....0	Sunderland.....0
Stoke.....2	Portsmouth.....1
Tranmere.....1	Leicester.....1
Watford.....5	Port Vale.....2
West Bromwich.....3	Grimsby.....1
Charlton.....0	Derby.....0
Ipswich.....2	Norwich.....1

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Brentford.....0	Notts County.....0
Bristol Rovers.....1	Blackpool.....1
Bumley.....2	Peterborough.....1
Carlisle.....2	Wrexham.....2
Chesterfield.....1	Bristol City.....1
Hull.....1	Crewe.....2
Swansea.....2	Brighton.....1
Swindon.....2	Bournemouth.....2
Walsall.....2	Bradford.....1
York.....2	Wycombe.....1

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Barnet.....5	Hartlepool.....1
Bury.....1	Torquay.....0
Cambridge.....2	Doncaster.....2
Chester.....1	Rochdale.....2
Colchester.....2	Fulham.....2
Gillingham.....1	Exeter.....0
Hereford.....3	Leyton Orient.....2
Lincoln.....2	Mansfield.....1
Plymouth.....5	Scarborough.....1
Preston.....0	Northampton.....3
Scunthorpe.....1	Cardiff.....1
Wigan.....1	Darlington.....1

CONFERENCE LEAGUE

Dover.....1	Altrincham.....4
Hednesford.....0	D/Redbridge.....0

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Aberdeen.....2	Motherwell.....1
Kilmarnock.....1	Falkirk.....0
Raith.....1	Hearts.....3
Rangers.....5	Partick.....0
Hibernian.....1	Celtic.....2

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Clydebank.....2	Airdrieonians.....1
Dumbarton.....0	St Mirren.....1
Dundee.....1	Dunfermline.....1
Hamilton.....0	Greenock Morton.....1
St Johnstone.....1	Dundee United.....0

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Berwick.....4	Montrose.....1
Clyde.....2	East Fife.....2
Forfar.....2	Stranraer.....2
Queen of Sth.....0	Stirling.....7
Stenhousemuir.....0	Ayr.....1

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Brechin.....0	Livingston.....1
Caledonian Thistle.....2	Cowdenbeath.....0
East Stirling.....1	Albion.....1
Queen's Park.....0	Arbroath.....0
Ross County.....0	Alloa.....0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

35 Alan Shearer (Blackburn), Robbie Fowler

(Liverpool)

27 Les Ferdinand (Newcastle)

25 Dwight Yorke (Aston Villa)

24 Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham)

22 Ian Wright (Arsenal)

20 Chris Armstrong (Tottenham)

19 Tony Yeboah (Leeds)

18 Stan Collymore (Liverpool)

17 Eric Cantona (Manchester United)

16 Dion Dublin(Coventry), Dean Holdsworth (Wimbledon)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester United	35	22	7	6	64	35	73
Newcastle	34	22	4	8	62	35	70
Liverpool	34	19	8	7	66	31	65
Aston Villa	35	18	8	9	51	32	62
Arsenal	34	16	9	9	46	30	57
Tottenham	34	15	10	9	45	35	55
Everton	35	15	9	11	57	41	54
Blackburn	35	16	6	13	54	42	54
Nottingham Forest	34	14	11	9	46	48	53
West Ham	35	14	7	14	41	47	49
Chelsea	35	12	12	11	43	40	48
Middlesbrough	36	11	10	15	35	46	43
Leeds	34	12	6	16	39	52	42
Wimbledon	35	10	10	15	53	65	40
Sheffield Wednesday	35	10	8	17	45	55	38
Southampton	35	8	10	17	33	51	34
Manchester City	36	8	10	18	30	56	34
Coventry	35	7	12	16	40	60	33
QPR	36	8	6	22	35	54	30
Bolton	36	8	5	23	38	68	29

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Sunderland	42	21	15	6	56	31	78
Derby	43	20	15	8	66	46	75
Crystal Palace	43	19	15	9	64	45	72
Charlton	41	16	17	8	53	42	65
stoke	41	17	12	12	55	45	63
Ipswich	41	17	11	13	73	61	62
Huddersfield	42	17	11	14	59	53	62
Leicester	42	15	14	13	58	59	59
Birmingham	42	15	12	15	59	55	57
Sheffield United	43	14	13	16	51	53	55
Southend	43	14	13	16	49	58	55
Barnsley	42	13	15	14	55	63	54
West Bromwich	42	15	9	18	54	63	54
Grimsby	41	14	12	15	50	58	54
Norwich	43	13	14	16	55	51	53
Wolverhampton	42	13	14	15	55	56	53
Port Vale	40	13	13	14	52	58	52
Millwall	43	13	12	18	41	59	51
Tranmere	41	12	14	15	55	56	50
Reading	41	11	16	14	47	55	49
Portsmouth	43	12	12	19	60	68	48
Oldham	41	11	13	17	49	47	46
Luton	41	10	11	20	36	57	41
Watford	41	7	17	17	50	63	38

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Swindon	40	23	13	4	64	30	82
Blackpool	43	22	12	9	63	37	78
Crewe	42	21	7	14	73	53	70
Oxford	41	20	10	11	61	37	70
Notts County	41	19	13	9	55	35	70
Chesterfield	40	18	11	11	51	43	65
Wrexham	42	16	15	11	68	51	63
Bradford	42	19	6	17	63	64	63
Stockport	42	17	12	13	56	45	63
Bristol Rovers	42	18	9	15	54	57	63
Bristol City	43	14	15	14	50	53	57
Wycombe	42	14	14	14	47	55	56
Walsall	40	14	10	15	49	41	55
Brentford	43	14	13	16	39	45	55
Bournemouth	43	15	9	19	49	68	54
York	41	12	13	16	55	64	49
Shrewsbury	41	12	13	16	52	57	49
Rotherham	41	12	13	16	46	56	49
Peterborough	42	12	12	18	55	59	48
Burnley	40	12	11	17	50	62	47
Carlisle	42	10	13	19	53	66	43
Swansea	43	9	14	20	40	74	41
Brighton	42	9	10	23	42	62	37
Hull	42	5	16	21	33	64	31

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Preston	42	20	17	5	71	36	77
Gillingham	42	21	14	7	46	18	77
Bury	42	20	12	10	60	42	72
Wigan	43	20	10	13	60	51	70

Plymouth	42	19	12	11	63	46	69
Darlington	42	17	17	8	49	38	68
Barnet	43	17	15	11	59	41	66
Colchester	42	16	16	10	55	47	64
Chester	42	16	16	11	67	48	63
Hereford	40	16	14	10	52	41	62
Northampton	42	17	11	14	47	40	62
Exeter	43	13	16	14	43	48	55
Scunthorpe	41	14	12	15	56	52	54
Rochdale	42	14	11	17	54	55	53
Doncaster	42	14	10	18	44	56	52
Fulham	43	11	16	16	56	60	49
Lincoln	43	12	13	18	51	69	49
Mansfield	41	10	19	12	47	56	49
Hartlepool	42	11	13	18	43	58	46
Leyton Orient	43	12	10	21	41	56	46
Cambridge	42	11	12	19	54	68	45
Cardiff	43	10	12	21	38	58	42
Scarborough	43	7	16	20	36	64	37
Torquay	42	5	13	24	29	73	28

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Rangers	33	24	6	3	76	23	78
Celtic	33	21	11	1	62	22	74
Aberdeen	32	15	5	12	47	39	50
Hearts	33	15	5	13	52	51	50
Raith	33	11	6	16	37	52	39
Motherwell	33	9	11	13	26	33	38
Kilmarnock	33	10	8	15	37	49	38
Hibernian	33	10	8	15	40	55	38
Partick	32	8	5	19	25	54	29
Falkirk	33	6	5	22	29	53	23

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Dundee United	33	18	9	6	69	34	63
Dunfermline	33	18	8	7	66	39	62
St Johnstone	33	18	7	8	59	35	61
Greenock Morton	33	18	6	9	53	37	60
Dundee	33	14	10	9	50	40	52
St Mirren	33	12	8	13	43	47	44
Airdrieonians	33	9	10	14	41	50	37
Clydebank	33	9	10	14	36	51	37
Hamilton	33	8	6	19	35	53	30
Dumbarton	33	3	2	28	21	87	11

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Stirling	33	21	9	3	75	27	72
East Fife	33	18	10	5	49	27	64
Berwick	33	16	6	11	58	42	54
Stenhousemuir	33	14	6	13	50	44	48
Ayr	33	10	12	11	38	36	42
Clyde	33	10	11	12	43	41	41
Stranraer	33	7	17	9	37	42	38
Queen of South	33	10	8	15	50	65	38
Forfar	33	9	7	17	31	58	34
Montrose	33	5	4	24	32	81	19

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Livingston	33	19	8	6	46	23	65
Brechin	33	17	9	7	38	17	60
Caledonian Thistle	33	14	11	8	61	35	53
Ross County	33	12	16	5	54	34	52
Arbroath	33	12	12	9	38	36	48
Queen's Park	33	10	11	12	36	41	41
East Stirling	33	9	10	14	51	60	37
Cowdenbeath	33	10	7	16	41	53	37
Alloa	33	5	11	17	24	53	26
Albion	33	6	7	20	34	71	25

FRENCH CUP SEMI-FINALS

— April 14 —

Nimes.....1	Montpellier.....0
Marseille.....1	Auxerre.....1

(after extra time, score after 90 minutes 0-0)
Auxerre won 3-1 on penalties
Auxerre plays Nimes in the Cup final on May 4 in Paris.

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

Real Sociedad	.....5	Valencia	.....2
Sporting Gijon	.....0	Oviedo	.....1
Espanyol	.....4	Racing Vallecana	.....2
Celta	.....1	Zaragoza	.....1
Deportivo Coruna	.....2	Merida	.....1
Valladolid	.....1	Athletic Bilbao	.....1
Tenerife	.....4	Salamanca	.....0
Athletico Madrid	.....1	Real Betis	.....1
Sevilla	.....0	Real Madrid	.....1
Racing Santander	.....1	Barcelona	.....1

TABLE

Athletico Madrid	36	22	8	6	62	25	74
Barcelona	36	20	11	5	61	30	71
Valencia	36	21	4	11	67	46	67
Espanyol	36	17	12	7	52	31	63
Tenerife	36	17	10	9	63	50	61
Real Betis	36	15	14	7	55	40	59
Real Madrid	36	16	9	11	64	48	57
Compostela	36	16	6	14	43	48	54
Deportivo Coruna	36	14	12	10	57	34	54
Real Sociedad	36	14	11	11	48	45	53
Oviedo	36	11	11	14	37	47	44
Celta Vigo	36	10	13	13	39	44	43
Racing Santander	36	10	13	13	40	55	43
Zaragoza	36	9	14	13	42	50	41
Sporting Gijon	36	11	7	18	44	48	40
Athletic Bilbao	36	9	13	14	35	48	40
Rayo Vallecano	36	10	8	18	40	63	38
Valladolid	36	8	13	15	44	54	37
Sevilla	36	8	13	15	34	49	37
Albacete	36	9	9	18	46	65	36
Merida	36	7	12	17	31	53	33
Salamanca	36	6	9	21	41	72	27

YUGOSLAV LEAGUE

— April 13 —

Division A

Rad	.....1	Proleter	.....0
Vojvodina	.....2	Sloboda	.....0
Becej	.....1	Cukaricki	.....0
Partizan	.....5	Mladost (L)	.....0
Radnicki (N)	.....1	Red Star	.....3

TABLE

Partizan	13	9	2	2	35	12	47
Red Star	13	7	3	3	18	10	40
Vojvodina	13	6	5	2	23	10	36
Becej	13	7	5	1	15	11	34
Proleter	13	5	3	5	18	18	24
Cukaricki	13	2	6	5	12	13	23
Radnicki (N)	13	3	4	6	12	24	22
Rad	13	3	4	6	12	16	21
Mladost (L)	13	4	2	7	15	22	20
Sloboda	13	1	2	10	6	30	10

DIVISION B

Obilic	.....5	Radnicki (B)	.....1
OFK Beograd	.....2	Napredak	.....0
Borac	.....1	Loznica	.....1
Buducnost	.....0	Hajduk	.....1
Mladost (BJ)	.....1	Zemun	.....0

TABLE

Zemun	13	7	3	2	17	6	31
Borac	13	8	2	2	20	8	28
Hajduk	13	6	3	3	14	11	27
Mladost (BJ)	13	5	1	6	14	18	20
Loznica	13	5	2	5	15	13	19
Buducnost	13	4	4	4	10	11	19
Napredak	13	4	3	5	11	13	18
Obilic	13	4	1	7	14	17	18
OFK Beograd	13	4	2	6	13	18	18
Radnicki (B)	13	1	3	8	8	21	13

All teams began the spring season with bonus points awarded at the end of the autumn season of the 1995/96 championship.

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

— April 14 —

Club Brugge	.....2	Lierse	.....1
Ekeren	.....3	Charleroi	.....1
Beveren	.....2	Ghent	.....2
KK Mechelen	.....2	Cercle Brugge	.....1
Seraing	.....0	Molenbeek	.....1
(match abandoned after pitch invasion)			
Sint Truiden	.....2	Aalst	.....2
Harelbeke	.....0	Lommel	.....3
Anderlecht	.....2	Standard Liege	.....1
Waregem	.....1	Antwerp	.....1

TABLE

Club Brugge	31	24	5	2	79	26	77
Anderlecht	31	21	4	6	79	34	67
Molenbeek	31	13	11	7	38	28	50

Lierse	31	13	10	8	50	38	49
Ekeren	31	13	8	10	45	35	47
Lommel	31	13	5	13	38	42	44
Charleroi	31	11	11	9	51	48	44
Standard	31	11	11	9	45	42	44
Harelbeke	31	13	4	14	37	42	43
Mechelen	31	11	7	13	34	42	40
Cercle Brugge	31	10	10	11	44	44	40
Antwerp	31	10	8	13	36	44	38
Sint Truiden	31	10	7	14	39	53	37
Aalst	31	9	10	12	44	47	37
Ghent	31	8	11	12	35	47	35
Seraing	31	8	5	18	33	62	29
Beveren	31	6	8	17	34	49	26
Waregem	31	3	9	19	27	65	18

AUSTRIA FIRST DIVISION

— April 14 —

Rapid Vienna	.....3	FC Tirol Innsbruck	.....1
GAK	.....1	Sturm Graz	.....0
Admira/Wacker	.....0	Austria Vienna	.....3
LASK	.....3	SV Salzburg	.....0
Vorwaerts Steyr	.....1	SV Ried	.....2

TABLE

Rapid Vienna	27	16	5	6	45	27	53
Sturm Graz	26	15	4	7	46	25	49
FC Tirol Innsbruck	27	14	5	8	50	31	47
GAK	27	12	9	6	33	24	45
Austria Vienna	27	11	7	9	33	23	40
LASK	27	10	7	10	26	24	37
SV Ried	27	8	10	9	32	40	34
SV Salzburg	27	7	11	9	37	39	32
Admira/Wacker	27	5	11	11	28	44	26
Vorwaerts Steyr	26	0	3	23	16	69	3

SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP

— April 14 —

Aarau	.....1	Slon	.....0
Grasshoppers	.....3	Basle	.....0
Lucerne	.....5	St Gallen	.....0
Servette	.....4	Neuchatel	.....1
(aggregate points include bonus points from the qualifying phase)			

TABLE

Grasshopper	7	4	3	0	14	3	37
Neuchatel	7	4	1	2	11	8	34
Slon	7	4	0	3	10	8	33
Aarau	7	4	3	0	14	6	29
Lucerne	6	2	1	3	10	7	27
Servette	7	1	4	2	11	10	21
Basle	6	0	2	4	4	12	17
St Gallen	7	0	2	5	1	21	16

J-LEAGUE

— April 14 —

Yokohama F	.....2	Hiroshima	.....3
Hiroshima	.....3	Kyoto	.....0
Kashima	.....3	Yokohama M	.....1
Kawasaki	.....2	Urawa	.....0
Shimizu	.....5	Hiratsuka	.....1
Nagoya	.....2	Osaka G	.....0
Osaka C	.....1	Fukuoka	.....2
Ichihara	.....2	Iwata	.....4

TABLE

Yokohama F	7	7	0	14	1	21
Iwata	7	6	1	15	5	19
Kashima	7	6	1	23	8	18
Nagoya	7	6	1	16	6	18
Kawasaki	7	5	2	15	8	15
Urawa	7	5	2	11	8	15
Shimizu	7	4	3	16	10	13
Hiroshima	7	3	4	8	7	9
Osaka G	7	3	4	7	13	9
Hiratsuka	7	3	4	8	19	9
Ichihara	7	2	5	7	10	6
Kashiwa	7	2	5	11	16	6
Fukuoka	7	2	5	8	15	6
Osaka C	7	1	6	7	14	3
Yokohama M	7	1	6	6	13	3
Kyoto	7	0	7	2	21	0

Note: Losers in penalties shoot-outs are awarded 1 point.

DANISH SUPER LEAGUE

— April 9 —

Herfoelge	.....0	Brondby	.....0
Viborg	.....0	Lyngby	.....2
Silkeborg	.....2	Aarhus	.....1
Odense	.....2	Ikast	.....0
FC Copenhagen	.....1	Naestved	.....1
Aalborg	.....2	Vejle	.....0

Aalborg	.....0	Brondby	.....3
Brondby	.....1	Ikast	.....0
Vejle	.....2	Herfoelge	.....1
Lyngby	.....0	Aarhus	.....1
Silkeborg	.....2	Aalborg	.....1
Naestved	.....2	FC Copenhagen	.....2
Viborg	.....2	Odense	.....1

TABLE

Brondby	24	15	5	4	51	24	50
Aarhus	23	14	7	2	46	18	49
Lyngby	22	10	7	5	41	23	37
Odense	22	10	6	6	35	24	36
Aalborg	23	10	5	8	40	25	35
FC Copenhagen	24	9	8	7	37	34	35
Silkeborg	22	9	4	9	30	31	31
Vejle	22	6	7	11	24	36	25
Viborg	23	6	7	10	35	54	25
Ikast	24	4	7	13	22	43	19
Naestved	22	4	6	12	23	54	18
Herfoelge	23	4	5	14	25	43	17

CYPRUS' FIRST DIVISION

— April 8 —

Alki	.....2	Apollonas	.....2
Aris	.....1	Ethnikos	.....1
Enosis	.....4	Aradippou	.....1
AEL	.....0	APOEL	.....3
Anorthosis	.....2	AEK	.....1
Evaghoras	.....1	Nea Salamina	.....2
Omonia	.....3	Olympiakos	.....3

TABLE

APOEL Nicosia	21	17	4	0	55	15	55
Omonia Nicosia	21	14	4	3	52	26	46
AEK Lamaca	21	14	3	4	35	15	45
Anorthosis F/gusta	21	12	6	3	39	20	42
Apollon	21	8	8	5	27	21	32
Paralimni	21	8	6	7	34	31	30
Alki	21	7	6	8	34	37	27
Achna	21	6	8	7	26	30	26
Salamina	21	8	2	11	25	37	26
Aris	21	5	8	8	26	28	23
Olympiakos	21	5	5	11	16	26	20
AEL	21	5	3	13	28	43	18
Evaghoras	21	2	7	12	19	43	13
Aradippou	21	0	2	19	17	62	2

TURKEY'S FIRST DIVISION

— April 8 —

Besiktas	.....5	Gaziantepspor	.....3
Antalyaspor	.....0	Trabzonspor	.....2
Kocaelispor	.....4	Bursaspor	.....2
Denizlispor	.....2	Ankaragucu	.....3
Samsunspor	.....4	Vanspor	.....1
Kayserispor	.....1	Fenerbahce	.....3
Genclerbirliigi	.....2	Istanbulspor	.....0
Galatasaray	.....3	Eskisehirspor	.....0
Altay	.....0	Karsiyaka	.....0

TABLE

	28	22	4	2	62	18	70
Trabzonspor	28	22	4	2	62	18	70
Fenerbahce	28	21	5	2	59	18	68
Besiktas	28	21	3	4	68	29	66
Galatasaray	28	18	4	6	60	29	58
Kocaelispor	28	13	9	6	45	34	48
Antalyaspor	28	11	6	11	41	49	39
Samsunspor	28	10	6	12	36	35	36
Bursaspor	28	8	10	10	48	41	34
Genclerbirligi	28	8	10	10	36	41	34
Gaziantepspor	28	9	7	12	34	39	34
Istanbulspor	28	7	9	12	40	43	30
Denizlisp	28	7	8	13	32	44	29
Ankaragucu	28	8	5	15	28	48	29
Vanspor	28	6	8	14	27	45	26
Altay	28	6	8	14	26	49	26
Karsiyaka	28	6	6	16	18	50	24
Eskisehirspor	28	7	2	19	32	58	23
Kayserispor	28	4	10	14	33	55	22



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



Colombia includes experience

Colombia coach Hernan Dario Gomez ignored calls for a renovation of the national team and named all the best-known stalwarts in the squad for his team's opening World Cup qualifier at home to Paraguay.

Veteran midfielders Carlos Valderrama and Leonel Alvarez, old favourite Freddy Rincon and eccentric goalkeeper Rene Higuita were all included in the squad for the match in the steamy port of Barranquilla on April 24.

Striker Faustino Asprilla of English club Newcastle, who was axed from the squad for last month's friendly against Bolivia for missing training, was also included.

Valderrama, 34, announced his retirement from international soccer after the team's spectacular flop at the last World Cup but then changed his mind. He now plays in the emergent soccer league in the United States.

Colombia arrived at the 1994 World Cup as favourite but was eliminated after a shock first round defeat by the United States.

This was followed by

tragedy when defender Andres Escobar, who scored an own goal against the US, was shot dead outside a restaurant in the city of Medellin.

The nine South American countries in the qualifiers — Brazil qualifies automatically as holder — play each other twice with the top four going to the finals in France.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Rene Higuita (Atletico Nacional), Farid Mondragon (Independiente, Argentina)

Defenders: Nestor Ortiz (Tolima), Jorge Bermudez (America), Alexis Mendoza (Junior), Wilson Perez (America), Antonio Moreno (Tolima), Francisco Cassiani (Junior)

Midfielders: Mauricio Serna (Atletico Nacional), Leonel Alvarez (Dallas, U.S.), Freddy Rincon (Real Madrid), Carlos Valderrama (Tampa Bay Mutiny, U.S.), Andres Estrada (Deportivo Cali), Edison Mafra (Deportivo Cali)

Forwards - Faustino Asprilla (Newcastle), Ivan Rene Valencia (Junior), Adolfo Valencia (Santa Fe), Victor Hugo Aristizabal (Atletico Nacional).



Carlos Valderrama: Seen with his MSL team's — Tampa Bay Mutiny — strip.

Socrates quits Ecuador

Two Ecuadorean first division clubs, Liga Deportiva Universitaria and Tecnico Universitario, are without their respective coaches after the first five rounds of the 1996 season.

Former Brazilian international, star midfielder Socrates, resigned last weekend after his team, Liga lost 1-0 against Nacional.

After five rounds Liga Deportiva had lost three games at home, drew one and won one against a team who is running last.

Socrates, in his first outing as coach, left a team without tactical and collective order, according to local soccer experts.

Meanwhile, Ecuadorean tactician Carlos Infante was sacked by Tecnico officials after a very poor campaign. Tecnico was beaten by 7-0 in its last match by Emelec, the current leader of the tournament.

Libertadores Cup

First round ends soon

The Libertadores Cup, the major tournament at club level in South American, is reaching the end of the first stage with two teams, Barcelona of Ecuador and Penarol of Uruguay, already qualified for the second round in Group 1 and 2 respectively.

Although the Ecuadorean runners-up have to play the last two games away, against the Paraguayans Cerro Porteno and Olimpia, they have 12 points from four matches while Cerro Porteno is in second place with five games and seven points and Espoli third with five and six. Olimpia is last with one point from four matches but still has a remote chance of qualifying.

The remaining games are: Olimpia v Espoli, Cerro Porteno v Barcelona and Olimpia v Barcelona.

In Group 2, five times Libertadores Cup champion, Penarol of Uruguay, is practically the winner of its pool. The Uruguayan champion is in first place with 11 points from five matches and it will be at home against Peruvian champion Universitario, while Defensor Sporting, also from Uruguay, is in second place with six.

The remaining matches are: Penarol v Universitario, and Defensor Sporting v Sporting Cristal.

In Group 3 America of Colombia, San Jose of Bolivia, and Junior of Colombia are set to qualify for the second round, probably not in that order, while Guabira from Bolivia is almost out of the tournament.

America leads the group with nine points from five matches, followed by San Jose with four and nine, Junior with four and six and last Guabira with five and three.

The remaining matches: Guabira v Junior, Junior v San Jose and America v San Jose.

In Group 4 Corinthians of Brazil is the leader with 10 points from five matches and qualified already. In second place is Chilean champions Universidad of Chile with seven points from three games, Botafogo is third with four points and four games and last Universidad Catolica of Chile with four points from six matches.

The remaining games: Universidad of Chile v Botafogo, Corinthians v Universidad of Chile, and Botafogo v Universidad of Chile.

In Group 5 the Argentine clubs San Lorenzo and River Plate should qualify for the second round while the third berth could go to one of the Venezuelan clubs, Minerven or Caracas.

River Plate leads the group with eight points from four games, San Lorenzo is second with seven from five, third is Minerven with five from five and last Caracas with two from four.

The remaining matches are: River Plate v Minerven, San Lorenzo v Caracas, and River Plate v Caracas.

SECOND ROUND POSSIBILITIES

The second round will begin on May 1 with the second leg played on May 8.

The possible matches could be:

Barcelona (Ecuador) v San Jose (Bolivia)
Penarol (Uruguay) v Botafogo (Brazil)
America (Colombia) v Minerven (Venezuela)
Corinthians (Brazil) v Espoli (Ecuador)
River Plate (Argentina) v Sporting Cristal (Peru)
Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) v San Jose (Bolivia)
Universidad of Chile (Chile) v Defensor Sporting (Uruguay)

San Lorenzo (Argentina) v Gremio (Brazil)
Gremio, as the current Libertadores Cup champion, begins its quest for a second crown in the second round.

The quarter-finals will be played on May 15 and 22, the semi-finals on May 29 and June 12 and the finals on June 19 and 26.

P24: Brazilian and Argentine results

Libertadores Cup

FIRST ROUND

GROUP ONE

In Quito: Espoli (Ecuador) 1 Barcelona (Ecuador) 2 (halftime 0-0)

Scorers:

Espoli — Luis Zambrano (67)

Barcelona — Gilson de Souza (79 and 86)

Attendance: 20,000

In Asuncion: Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) 0

Olimpia (Paraguay) 0

Attendance: 16,000

In Asuncion: Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) 2

Espoli (Ecuador) 1 (halftime 1-1)

Scorers:

Cerro Porteno — Virgilio Ferreira (18),

Hector Nunez (87, pen)

Espoli — Manuel Yopez (37)

Attendance: 10,000

TABLE

Barcelona	4	4	0	0	10	6	12
Cerro Porteno	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Espoli	5	2	0	3	7	8	6
Olimpia	4	0	1	3	2	5	1

GROUP TWO

In Lima: Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0 Defensor Sporting (Uruguay) 0

Attendance: 19,000

In Lima: Universitario (Peru) 1 Sporting Cristal (Peru) 2 (halftime 1-0)

Scorers:

Universitario — Alex Rossi (26)

Sporting Cristal — Norberto Solano (61, pen),

Roberto Palacios (71)

Attendance: 40,000

In Montevideo: Penarol (Uruguay) 1

Defensor Sporting (Uruguay) 1 (0-0)

Penarol — Pablo Bengoechea (63, pen)

Defensor Sporting — Ruben dos Santos (50)

TABLE

Penarol	4	2	2	0	11	7	8
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Sporting Cristal

4 1 2 1 5 6 5

Universitario

4 1 1 2 5 6 4

Defensor Sporting

4 0 3 1 4 6 3

GROUP THREE

In Santa Cruz, Bolivia: Guabira (Bolivia) 4

San Jose (Bolivia) 1 (2-0)

Scorers:

Guabira — Marcelo Zeballos (29), Mauricio

Ramos (42 and 62), Juan Carlos Garcia (79)

San Jose — Roly Paniagua (68)

In Cali, Colombia: America (Colombia) 2

Junior Barranquilla (Colombia) 0 (0-0)

Scorer: Anthony de Avila (76 and 82)

Attendance: 45,000

In Oruro, Bolivia: San Jose (Bolivia) 2

Junior (Colombia) (2-0)

Scorers: Iber Vaca (16), Robert Espindola

(22)

Attendance: 17,000

TABLE

America	5	3	0	2	9	2	9
San Jose	4	3	0	1	6	5	9
Junior	4	2	0	2	6	5	6
Guabira	5	2	0	4	6	15	3

GROUP FOUR

In Santiago: Universidad Catolica (Chile) 0

Universidad de Chile (Chile) 0

Attendance: 20,000

In Rio de Janeiro: Botafogo (Brazil) 1

Corinthians (Brazil) 1 (0-0)

Scorers:

Botafogo — Dauri (65)

Corinthians — Souza (67)

Attendance: 15,000

In Santiago: Universidad Catolica (Chile) 2

Botafogo (Brazil) 1 (1-1)

Scorers:

Universidad Catolica — Sebastian Rozental

(22 and 83)

Botafogo — Bentinho (42)

Attendance: 7,000

TABLE

Corinthians	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
Uni de Chile	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Botafogo	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Uni Catolica	6	1	1	4	6	13	4

GROUP FIVE

In Caracas: Caracas FC (Venezuela) 1

Minerven (Venezuela) 1 (1-0)

Scorers:

Caracas FC — Gerson Diaz (31)

Minerven — Hector Bidoglio (89)

Attendance: 8,000

In Buenos Aires: River Plate (Argentina) 0

San Lorenzo (Argentina) 0

Attendance: 20,000

In Buenos Aires: San Lorenzo (Argentina) 4

Minerven (Venezuela) 0 (3-0)

Scorers: Claudio Biaggio (14 and 78),

Esteban Gonzalez (38), Roberto Montserrat

(45)

Attendance: 15,000

In Buenos Aires: River Plate (Argentina) 5

Minerven (Venezuela) 0 (3-0)

Scorers: Enzo Francescoli (20 pen, 40), Noel

San Vicente, (35m own goal), Hernan

Crespo (77), Gabriel Amato (90)

TABLE

River Plate	5	3	2	0	12	3	11
San Lorenzo	5	1	4	0	8	4	7
Minerven	6	1	2	3	8	16	5
Caracas FC	4	0	2	2	5	10	2

Note: Top three teams in each group qualify for the second round. Holders Gremio have a bye to the second round.

AJAX HEAD FOR DUTCH TITLE

Ajax Amsterdam edged towards the Dutch league title with a 1-0 home win over RKC Waalwijk last Saturday. Defender Michael Reiziger scored on the hour to help take title-holder Ajax five points clear of nearest challenger PSV Eindhoven which did not have a game. Both have three more matches to play.

Ajax did not perform brilliantly and minds may have been on next Wednesday's European Cup semi-final against Panathinaikos. The reigning European Cup champions lost the home leg 1-0 and have a tough return leg in prospect in Greece.

Ajax created few chances in the first half and early in the second half RKC striker Clyde Wijnhard missed an excellent close-range chance.

On the hour, Reiziger found space on the right, moved inside and scored with a left-foot shot.

Fifteen minutes from time striker Hans Van Arum got the ball into the net for RKC but was ruled offside.

It was the last home match for Ajax in the De Meer stadium, which will be pulled down after the season ends. They will play in the new Amsterdam Arena next season.



Michael Reiziger: Scored the winner for Ajax.

HAT-TRICK FOR DEADLY RANGER



Erik Bo Andersen: A hat-trick for Rangers in only his fourth appearance after signing from Aalborg in Denmark.

Dane Erik Bo Andersen struck a hat-trick in only his fourth appearance for Rangers to fire the Glasgow side within six points of an eighth successive Scottish premier division title.

Andersen led a 5-0 rout of relegation-threatened Partick to leave Rangers ahead of second-placed Celtic.

Andersen, signed from Danish league Aalborg at the end of February, grabbed two goals in four first-half minutes and completed his hat-trick with a 63rd minute header.

Stuart McCall and Richard Gough each scored in the last five minutes to seal success.

Third-placed Aberdeen seized a 2-1 win over Motherwell when Brian Irvine headed an 86th-minute winner.

Motherwell had taken the lead in the 41st minute following a long ball from Dougie Arnott which Willie Falconer drove home from 10 metres.

Aberdeen equalised after half-time when Motherwell skipper Chris McCart deflected a cross into his own net, ending his team's sequence of seven games without conceding a goal.

CELTIC MAINTAIN PRESSURE

Celtic's unbreakable spirit kept its slender Scottish championship hopes alive last Sunday when it came from behind to beat 10-man Hibernian 2-1 at Easter Road, Edinburgh.

Dutch striker Pierre Van Hooydonk scored twice to take his season's tally to 30 — and cut the gap on leader Rangers at the top to four points. Both teams have three matches to play.

Ex-Celtic player Pat McGinlay's 50th minute

opener appeared to be pushing the title towards Rangers until Van Hooydonk headed an equaliser then scored a controversial 82nd minute winner.

Hibs felt Celtic substitute Andreas Thom was offside as he moved clear on a Paul McStay pass but there was no flag and the German squared to his Dutch partner to net a simple second and secure three vital points.

Rangers needs six points from its last three

games to be sure of its eighth successive crown — five might also be enough but anything less could open the door for Celtic's first championship win since 1988.

Hibs defender Graeme Love was sent off by referee Jim McCluskey after 39 minutes for appearing to throw an arm at Van Hooydonk, who was in the line-up despite speculation that he is a transfer target for Dutch giant Feyenoord.

Club Brugge clinch top spot



Paul Okon: His team, Club Brugge are the Belgium champions.

Club Brugge clinched the Belgian soccer league title when it beat Lierse 2-1 last weekend.

The victory left Brugge 10 points clear of second-placed Anderlecht, which now cannot catch Brugge with

only three matches to play.

Anderlecht, champion for the last three seasons, beat Standard Liege 2-1 on Friday.

It is Brugge's 10th championship and its fourth in the last nine seasons.

Cantona not in France plans

French coach Aime Jacquet admitted last weekend that he saw little chance of Eric Cantona joining his European championship squad.

Jacquet, coach since 1994, said since he failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals, that Cantona's style was not to Manchester United's but the French one was not the same.

In England Eric profits from playing to a system suits him," Jacquet said. "Unfortunately I am not prepared to change a style to suit one player."

Under Jacquet, for whom Cantona was captain until a famous kung-fu attack last year, France has blished a new unbeaten record last month when they beat Belgium 2-0.

Jacquet, who expects to name his final squad on May 13, has not seen Cantona since January 13.

Since then Cantona has not singlehandedly led Manchester United's surge in unprecedented second place in three seasons.

He has scored seven goals in their last nine matches, five of them in 1-0 wins and a 1-1 draw, bringing them 13 points from a possible 18.

Asked whether Cantona could fit in behind the front two of Paris Saint Germain's Youri Djorkaeff and Bordeaux's Zinedine Zidane, Jacquet was non-committal.

"He could do but Corentin Martins of Auxerre has really regained his form after injury and he fills that role perfectly," Jacquet said.

Zidane's form for Bordeaux, particularly in the UEFA Cup, and Djorkaeff's performances for Paris have been replicated in their performances for France while Martins has inspired Auxerre to the top of the French League.

Last Thursday, Jacquet had professed his admiration for the way Cantona had responded after his eight month suspension last year. "He has responded magnificently and he's in great form right now," said Jacquet.



Jurgen Klinsmann: Scored only goal of game for Bayern.

Bayern stay on track

Jurgen Klinsmann edged Bayern Munich nearer the Bundesliga title last Saturday, scoring the only goal of the game at former club Stuttgart as reigning champion Borussia Dortmund could only draw with Schalke.

The ace striker fired home just after the break to give Bayern a three-point lead over Dortmund, although the Bavarians have played a game more.

Schalke's point after a goalless draw in Dortmund moved it into fourth spot above Stuttgart as the Royal Blues chase a UEFA Cup spot.

Borussia Moenchengladbach stayed third after a 2-1 win over Cologne, which remained deep in relegation trouble.

Michael Klinkert hit the winner after 75 minutes to leave new Cologne coach

Peter Neururer's men just a point off third-bottom.

Eintracht Frankfurt, which crashed 3-1 at home to Hansa Rostock on Friday night.

Hamburg was still in the UEFA Cup hunt after a 2-1 win at Kaiserslautern, a founder Bundesliga member which looked set to join Uerdingen in the second division next season.

Harald Spoerl blasted Hamburg's winner as it moved up to sixth.

Werder Bremen continued the recent march away from the basement with a 2-1 win at Sankt Pauli, Bernd Hobsch putting the visitors on their way with a goal on the stroke of half-time.

Freiburg's recent good run ended abruptly as it went down 3-0 to Karlsruhe, with ex-AS Roma star Thomas Haessler on target.

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PART 2

ITALY AND THE ROMANS

When the Roman Legions covered half the known earth, they took with them a game called "Harpastum" (harpastum on the left and then on the right?). For over 500 years in England, little else was written about a game so highly organised. The Legions saw it as fitness training for the troops but when they left, those who knew of the game kept it going. The divide between football and rugby is still as it was then with the Anglo-Saxon areas preferring the former as it was the Celts who revered ball games, in particular, far more highly than the rest of the British Isles, that are still predominantly rugby football strongholds. Local historians in Derby came forward with an account that several warriors beat and killed some Roman soldiers, after which they used their heads as footballs and kicked them around. They also state that once these became "unavailable for use", the men kicked a football around. Theory, fact or fiction, there's nothing stranger than myth and legend...or truth. As the old saying goes: "There's nowt as queer as folk".

SHROVETIDE FOOTBALL

This was a form of football-cum-rugby that involved entire communities and a pretty sordid affair it could become. The idea was to get the ball from one side of a village to the other by just about any means available. Such was the pull of this game that children were given three days school holidays to watch it and as with anything, heroes were born. A verse written into the Cumbrian dialect of the time goes:

At Scales, great Tom Barnes got the bat in his

hand,

And t'wives all ran out and shouted and banned.

Tom Cowan then pulched and flang him 'mang t'whins,

And he bladdered, "Od-white-te!, 'tous broken my shins"

A rough translation would be that of a foul being committed with young Tom Barnes remarking: "I say old chap, I think you've broken my legs".

This type of pastime was the fore-runner of both the Association and Rugby football that we know today but thankfully, guidelines don't allow for this type of incident to happen in the modern game. Other accounts are equally as obscure:

It's been said that St Cuthbert "gave up football" as a boy in the 7th century when warned about "vain play" by a child he later believed to be an Angel.

In a poem about St Hugh of Lincoln are these lines concerning him:

He kicked the ba' with his right foot,

And caught it with is knee,

And through and through the Jews window,

he gard the bonny ba' flee.

Most of us are aware of the plight of the Jewish nation throughout history and have no doubt that religious beliefs played a huge part in this boyhood prank but it does show that some form of football was being played at that time

LITERARY CONNECTIONS

Geoffrey Chaucer (circa 1300-1400) wrote an ambiguous line in his Knights Tale - omitted from a previous story - that a soldier fallen in battle was "rolling under foot as doth a ball". Around this period too, John Wycliffe (1320-84), the reformer, once said to his startled congregation: "the great prelates of the Church so despise ordinary folk that they kick them around as though a football". There can be no suggestion of a "mixed

metaphor" here.

William of Spalding (again Lincolnshire) once sought the pardon of the Pope after taking part in a match. While readying himself for a kick, his friend collided with him which loosened the knife in his sheath. The man was fatally wounded which badly upset William. It was not long after this that the clergy of Ely (Cambridgeshire) banned all men of the cloth from playing in such a rough game.

It wasn't only the clergy that forbade the playing of football either. Many were to oppose the game in those early days (some things never change) and as early as 1314, King Edward III ordered the then Lord Mayor of London to forbid the "playing of football in Smithfield and the streets". It was assumed that playing in the streets caused damage etc but at Smithfield? Funnily enough, this decree was made on the eve of the Battle of Bannockburn, a battle that made the pitch invasion of Wembley by the tartan army in the 1970s look tame by comparison. Before our friends from across the border get carried away, they also had their detractors too. James I of Scotland said in no uncertain terms in an edict from Perth in 1424: "That na man play at the fute-ball". Indeed, the first four Stuart Kings of Scotland considered the game to be of hinderance more than interest but they were preoccupied with constant war and civil strife at the time.

However, this entry was lodged in the accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland in 1497: this 22nd day of April, given to James Dog (court servant) to buy the king a football...2 shillings. A story by Gavin Douglas (1474-1522), albeit fiction, mentions a king who couldn't perform his normal duties as he was incapacitated by a bruised arm and a broken shin, sustained by playing at football.

What can be gathered from this: you can't keep the world game down! Detractors are many but ardent fans by far and away outnumbered them, such is the pulling power of football...the world game!

WOMEN AT THE GAME

Football has always been perceived as a "masculine game" and there can be no argument that it's roots certainly date back to men

playing together. What is often overlooked (even with the women's game today) is the fact that they too have played for many centuries in the varying forms of a sport we call football. Whilst the men of Scotland had their annual games at Scone, (the motto being: "All is fair in the ball at Scone"), the women went to Inverness for their own version where the married women played against the "single" ladies. The married women NEVER lost.

The following lines appear in a poem called Dialogue between two Shepherds, written by Sir Phillip Sidney and dates from the 16th century:

A time there is for all, my mother often say's,

When she, with skirt tucked very high,

With girls at football plays.

There is no natural law that solidly affirms women cannot play the beautiful game. All over the world, the women's leagues are drawing praise as quickly as they are dismissed by criticism but at least they are being recognised for their worth. The skill factor is mentioned as often as not, plus the fact that more clubs are starting ladies teams these days, would indicate what the fans already know: Football is football, pure and simple!

THE ITALIAN INFLUENCE

Women's football is very big in Italy and is a great way of leading into the topic of football there. Many people know that clubs such as AC Milan and the Juventus of today, were based on English clubs but now have their own identities. Surely the game must have been played in some form before this though?

It certainly was of course with Calcio, a florentine game, being the prime example. Calcio (from calciare - "to kick"), had a place in the Italian way of life for around 500 years. The game was played twice a year at significant "Holy" times: the first Sunday in May and the Feast of St John the Baptist (June 24th).

The noblemen of the families took the field of play amidst great ritual with one side in green and the other in red, probably the first mention of "team kits" and contrasting colours. This was an idea followed up by King Henry of France from all accounts because, being a keen footballer himself,

dressed his teams in red and white respectively.

Although Calcio was predominantly a religious spectacle, documentation from October of 1608 mentions that a game of Calcio was ordered as part of

FANS AT HIGHEST LEVEL

In 1531, Sir Thomas Elyot wrote: "Football should be put down for it is nothing but

message: "You may do well, if you have ideal times, to play the good fellow and come and see our matches at football, for that and bowling will be our best entertainment".

Oliver Cromwell was a



Colours differentiate teams and were first thought of over 500 years ago in Italy. Here Gary Speed wears Leeds United's change strip.

the festivities for the marriage of the Grand Duke Cosimo de Medici to the Archduchess of Austria. The game was played in one of the many squares of Florence, the Piazza Santos Croce to be exact.

Two goals were set-up, (consisting of two gaily coloured tents according to contemporary drawings of the period), one at each end of the pitch, and fences were erected for spectators to stand behind, on each side.

Sand was then thrown around the playing surface to give the players a better footing. Troops were also placed around the playing area to quell any fights etc that may break out on or off the pitch! Ideas of hooliganism being a modern day affliction of the game being well and truly dispelled.

All things Italian became fashionable in England during the 16th and 17th centuries with musicians composing madrigals in the Italian style and buildings resembling those of Florence flourishing. It came as no great surprise when Calcio was taken up too.

However, "hacking and tripping" were prevalent in this game and at the time, the great bard himself - William Shakespeare - commented as much in King Lear (Act 1, scene five).

a beastly fury and extreme violence". Reading between the lines; you get the impression that a form of Shrovetide football was being played as opposed to the Association game we know today but the mere mention of the word football from these times indicates a long association (no pun intended) with the sport. Elyot did retract his scribbles some three years later when he commended it being a: "a good exercise", trouble is, like the tabloid journals of today, the damage had already been done?

Opposition to the game has always been fierce but by the same token, it has also had its supporters from the word go and many coming from unlikely sources:

Charles 1st was an avid supporter of Sunday games, even though considered bad training for a prospective ruler of the land. However opposed were the ruling classes to the idea of the game, it was considered a bad move to ban it as the "common people would be physically the worse and make poor soldiers in time of war".

A young Jacobean of note and friendly with the nobles, by the name of John Chamberlain, once wrote to "Sir Dudley Carleton at court and offered this

great lover of the game and would "restrain" say who bemoaned the sport whenever he could. He once wrote of John Wheelwright that he: "feared him more than an army in the field", the reason being that he was formally trained and an excellent exponent in the "science of tripping".

A poem by John Gray in 1716 - Trivia - describes a scene in Covent Garden (London):

"I spy the furies of the footballwar,

The 'prentice quits his shop to join the crew,

Increasing crowds the flying game pursue,

Thus, as you roll the ball o'er snowy ground,

The gathering globe augments with every round.

But wither shall I run?, the throng draws high,

The ball now skims the street and now soars high,

The dex'trous glazier strong returns the bound,

And ginging sashes on the pent-house sound".

This is the form of football that caused the game to be banned from public streets and earned the likes of you and I, a clip round the ear from the local Policeman when caught as kids. Happy days though. It has to be assumed even here that the game being described is more akin to Rugby than our beloved game.

Cantona on trail of greatness

A year ago he was banned from soccer for eight months for attacking a fan and some argued he should have been kicked out of the game for good.

Now "Saint Eric" Cantona can do no wrong. Even his critics say he's a reformed character and the Frenchman's goals have put Manchester United in sight of a third league title in four years.

"People have one picture of Eric which has been painted by his critics," said Cantona's colleague at United, Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

"It's that he is a bully, he's a no-good person. He can play football but, apart from that, he's a hooligan."

"But that's completely untrue. He's a gentleman."

In February 1995, Cantona "the hooligan" launched a kung-fu kick at a Crystal Palace fan who was taunting him after the Frenchman had been sent off in a league game. He leapt into the crowd, kicked the fan on the chest and followed it up with a punch to the head.

Cantona was banned for eight months and initially received a two-week jail sentence, which was reduced on appeal to 120 hours community service.

The volatile Frenchman also was fined a total of \$458,700 by his club and the Football Association and lost the captaincy of the French national team.

After his successful court appeal, Cantona started his suspension with a barbed, cryptic attack on the media who had been following his lifestyle too closely for his liking.

"When the seagulls follow the trawler," he said, "it's because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea."

The incident was the last of a long list of expulsions and bans in France and England and it could have meant the end of his career.

But Manchester United

backed Cantona, even fighting off a determined bid by Italian club Inter Milan to buy him, and now the club has had its reward.

Cantona has scored seven goals in the last eight games to take his tally to 17 for his shortened, 33-game season.

With Cantona on the field, United has a remarkable record.

Alex Ferguson's team won the title for the first time in 26 years in 1993 and followed that up with its first league and FA Cup double in 1994. Cantona scored twice in the 4-0 Cup final victory against Chelsea.

But with Cantona missing for the final three months of last season, United wound up runners up in the league to Blackburn and lost the FA Cup final to Everton.

Still banned from the first two months of this term, Cantona saw United ousted from the UEFA Cup by modest Russian team Rotor Volgograd and then trailing Newcastle and Aston Villa before his return on October 1.

He couldn't wait to start.

With his second touch against Liverpool, Cantona set up a goal for Nicky Butt only 70 seconds into the game and also scored from the penalty spot in a 2-2 draw.

After that, the fans and media waited for his first blowup, but it never happened.

Not only had the Frenchman apparently lost the fiery temperament that led to so many yellow and red cards and angry exchanges with players and referees, he also became Cantona the peacemaker.

When United players such as Andy Cole and Roy Keane appeared on the brink

of being involved in trouble in the highly-charged atmosphere of Premier League games, there was Cantona, relishing the

responsibility of team captain, pulling them away.

The Frenchman was making a big impact with his feet and head, too.

In its first FA Cup game of the season, United stared at an upset elimination by Sunderland, a team from the lower division. Cantona came to the rescue with a headed equaliser 10 minutes from the end.

Now Ferguson's team is

on its way to the final at Wembley on May 11 against Liverpool, by which time it likely will have wrapped up the league title.

While Cole has frittered away chances in league games, Cantona has seemingly failed to miss. Four of United's last eight games have finished in wins with Cantona the scorer.

The Frenchman has stayed away from media interviews since his return and the seagulls have been unable to feast on sardines.

But he made a prophetic statement when he started his comeback.

"What I have to do is find a solution," he told the BBC. "That's what I think I have found now. Nobody knows about it and I can't explain it. People will have to notice it themselves."



Bad boy image has slipped from his shoulders.

Premier League Team

PROFILES

MANCHESTER UNITED

BY STUART JONES

And now the Champions for 1995/96. Well done lads. I know its not over but really I can't see them choking now.

Peter Schmeichel (G) — Born 1963 in Gladsaxe. Played for Brondby before moving to Manchester United. International player for Denmark.

Kevin Pilkington (G) — Born Hitchin in 1974. He was a trainee at United.

Steve Bruce (D) — Born Newcastle in 1960. Apprentice and star at Gillingham before moving to Norwich and being captain there. Moved to Manchester United and is now captain.

Gary Pallister (D) — Born Ramsgate in 1965. Left Billingham for Middlesbrough. Also played for Darlington on loan. Moved to Manchester United and is England international.

Paul Parker (D) — Born West Ham 1964. Apprentice at Fulham before playing at QPR and then Manchester United. Former England international.

David May (D) — Born 1970 Oldham. Trainee at Blackburn. Left for Manchester United the off season before last.

Denis Irwin (D) — Born 1965 Cork. Apprentice at Leeds before playing for Oldham Athletic, joined Manchester United and has played over 200 games for them. Ireland international.

Gary Neville (D) — Born Bury in 1975. Trainee with his brother at Manchester United, England international.

Phillip Neville (D) — Born Bury in 1977. Like his brother, trainee at Manchester United, also in England squad.

Roy Keane (M) — Born Cork in 1971. Ireland international who left Cobh Ramblers for Nottingham Forest. Moved to Manchester United where he is the HARD man in midfield.

Lee Sharpe (M) — Born Halesowen in 1971. Trainee at Torquay before moving to much bigger United — Manchester. Former England international.

David Beckham (M) — Born Leytonstone, London in 1975. Trainee at Manchester United had a loan spell at Preston North End where he really impressed.

Ryan Giggs (F/M) — Born Cardiff in 1973. Joined Manchester United from school where he was the boy wonder. Played schoolboy internationals for England under his fathers name of Wilson but is a Wales full international player.

Brian McClair (F/M) — Born 1963 in Bellshill. Apprentice at Aston Villa but never made the first squad. Joined Motherwell and then Celtic before linking with Manchester United. Former Scotland international. The father of the team really.

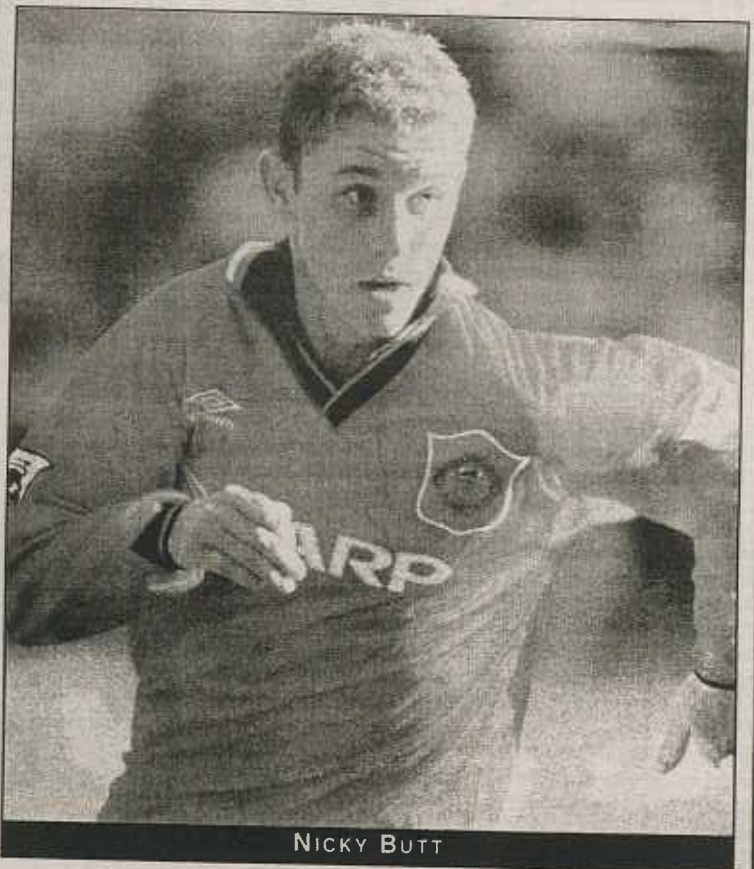
Paul Scholes (F) — Born Salford in 1974. Another trainee at Manchester United done good.

Nicky Butt (F) — Born Manchester 1975. Yet another Manchester United trainee. No wonder they won the Youth FA Cup a few years back!

Eric Cantona (F) — Born Paris in 1966 (as the Nike ad says). Played for Auxere, Martigues, Auxerre, Marseille, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Marseille & Nimes. Trialled at Sheffield Wednesday but went to Leeds and was snapped up for a bargain by Manchester United after yet another falling out with one of his coaches. France international player when he gets along with the coach! Brilliant is the only word to describe his football and even that understates it.

Andy Cole (F) — Born Nottingham in 1971. Trainee at Arsenal, had loan spells at Fulham and Bristol City where he made a permanent move. Then moved Newcastle before leaving for Manchester United. England international.

Alex Ferguson has led these lads into a great position. My only criticism is when is he ever going to praise the opposition! Good luck to Alex for building his own team his own way. He was successful in Scotland and now in England and none can dispute his record.



NICKY BUTT

RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM:	SOUTHAMPTON	SOUTHEND	STOCKPORT COUNTY
GROUND:	The Dell	Roots Hall Football Ground	Edgeley Park
ADDRESS:	Milton Road Southampton SO9 4XX	Victoria Avenue Southend on Sea SS2 6NQ	Hardcastle Road Stockport Cheshire SK3 9DD
CAPACITY:	15,000	10,350	12,500
RECORD GATE:	31,044 (1969)	31,090 (1979)	27,833 (1950)
DEBUT:	1898	1955	1902
BY RAIL:	Southampton	Prittlewell	Stockport
COMMENTS:	Small squashed and need major improvement. Actually needs a move to a new ground!	Quaint and picturesque The ground is okay too!	Undergoing development Has so many grounds around in competition but this one is quite a fine lower league ground.
ACCESSIBILITY	4	3.5	2.5
RATING /5:			
OVERALL GROUND	6.5	7	7.5
RATING /10:			

Leeds chairman moving aside

Leslie Silver revealed last week that the end of his reign as chairman of troubled Leeds United will coincide with a major clearout of players over the summer.

The retirement of 71-year-old Silver, who has been advised by doctors to take things easier after 14 years in charge, surprised many outsiders.

But Leeds has been preparing for the moment and new caretaker chairman Bill Fotherby admitted that the change at the top would not affect plans to bring in fresh talent to lift the team's slumping fortunes.

Silver and manager Howard Wilkinson have been stung by the ferocity of fans' anger to another disappointing season, culminating in an abysmal performance in the 3-0 League Cup final defeat by Aston Villa last month.

So they have signalled their intentions to restructure the playing staff, which will almost certainly mean the departures of Swedish star Tomas Brolin, Gary Speed and Brian Dene to finance the whole project.

Silver said: "It's going to be a very difficult summer with a lot of recruitment to do, new players to come in and new systems to develop. I think we need someone else at the club to oversee all that."



Tomas Brolin: Almost certain to leave Elland Road at end of season.

Birmingham boss in trouble with FA

Birmingham is set to be reprimanded by the Football Association (FA) over inflammatory remarks made in the build-up to last Wednesday's defeat at Millwall which ended in fans from both clubs clashing with police.

Birmingham boss Barry Fry was criticised by police chiefs after the first division match at the New Den where a mob of 150 Millwall supporters was baton-charged by mounted riot police outside the ground.

Two policemen were injured and four people were arrested as police attempted to stop the clashes.

Police said about 150 Millwall fans, whose team won the home match 2-0, tried to attack Birmingham supporters as they left the ground.

"There was a skirmish at the end when Millwall fans tried to attack the Birmingham coaches," said Chief Superintendent Ken Chapman. "We dispersed the crowd with horses and officers on foot and the coaches left safely."

That was a relatively minor skirmish compared to what might have been after events at last November's clash between the clubs at St Andrews, which prompted Fry's forecast that 'the place could be a time-bomb'.

FA spokeswoman Clare Tomlinson warned today: "The comments made prior to the game by Birmingham officials



Barry Fry: Controversial manager of Birmingham City set to be reprimanded by FA.

did not escape our attention."

However, any action is likely to be restricted to an official written rap over the knuckles while Millwall was left counting the \$A38,000 cost of the occasion.

The club sent Birmingham 1,600 tickets, but only 298 travelling fans attended the game — another 72 without tickets were turned back at Euston — and they were easily outnumbered by police and stewards.

Manager loses rights

Ireland manager Mick McCarthy has been banned from receiving English FA Cup final tickets for 10 years after two he received for last year's final were sold on the black market.

The \$A115 tickets for the game between Everton and Manchester United ended up in the hands of two Norwegian supporters, who paid \$A675 each for their seats.

An English FA inquiry traced the tickets back to first division club Millwall, where McCarthy was manager before taking over the Irish job from Jack Charlton in February.

FA spokesman Steve Double said: "Mick McCarthy told us that he had passed on the tickets to two associates at face value, and that he had made no monetary gain, which we accept."

"But in any event he was in breach of the terms and conditions...tickets should not be passed on, with or without payment, unless you have the prior written consent of your club or the organisation which made the original allocation."

Asprilla & Curle on April 30

Faustino Asprilla and Keith Curle will face the Football Association (FA) disciplinary committee on April 30 over a series of bruising clashes watched by millions on television.

Newcastle's controversial Colombian striker and the Manchester City skipper were involved in a running battle during

the Premiership clash between the clubs on February 24.

Soon after half-time Asprilla, angered by being hauled back as he tried to break into the City area, lashed out with his elbow, catching Curle in the face.

The City player went down, although referee Martin Bodenham took no action and the South



Faustino Asprilla

American subsequently scored his first goal in English football in what became a thrilling 3-3 draw.

But the controversy did not end there. After the final whistle, the pair clashed again, just metres from a linesman, with Asprilla appearing to butt Curle, the referee again taking no action.

Both Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan and City manager Alan Ball said they had not had a clear view of either incident but television footage was graphic.

Within two hours of the march, the FA had launched an inquiry and Asprilla was later charged with two counts of misconduct and Curle one.

Roy Keane out again

Manchester United midfielder Roy Keane was suspended for one match by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) last week, ruling him out of his country's friendly with the Czech Republic in Prague, on April 24.

Keane was sent off in the closing minutes of Ireland's 2-0 defeat by Russia in Dublin last month.

Three under-21 players, defender Kenny Cunningham of Wimbledon and midfielders Gareth Farrelly of Aston Villa and Keith O'Neill of Norwich were called in to the senior squad for the first time.



Ferdinand header rips open title race

Newcastle United rekindled its chances of becoming English Premier League champion for the first time in 69 years when a Les Ferdinand (right) header gave it a 1-0 home win over Aston Villa last Sunday.

Newcastle moved to within three points of leader Manchester United with a game in hand in a nerve-jangling title race thrown wide open following its hard-fought victory over Villa and Manchester United's shock 3-1 defeat at Southampton on Saturday.

The winning goal came after 64 minutes when Peter Beardsley's accurate cross from the right was powerfully headed home from close range by Ferdinand who met the ball before Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich could reach it.

It was Ferdinand's 28th goal of the season and took Newcastle to 70 points — three behind Alex Ferguson's team.

Manchester United has a goal difference of plus 29 compared with Newcastle's plus 28.

Newcastle, which led the table by 12 points in January, fell six points behind Manchester United last week after winning only twice in its previous eight matches and losing to Manchester United, Liverpool and Blackburn.



Remaining games for top 3

Manchester United

April 17 — Leeds (home)
April 27 — Nottingham Forest (home)
May 5 — Middlesbrough (away)

Newcastle

April 17 — Southampton (home)
April 27 — Leeds (away)
May 2 — Nottingham Forest (away)
May 5 — Tottenham (home)

Liverpool

April 16 — Everton (away)
April 27 — Middlesbrough (home)
May 1 — Arsenal (away)
May 5 — Manchester City (away)

Losing streak ends

Poole Town's fans were so relieved their team hadn't made it to the Guinness Book of Records as the worst team in semi-professional English soccer, they carried the players shoulder-high off the field.

A 0-0 draw with neighbour Bashley last week meant that the team from the Beazer Homes southern division brought to an end a dismal run of 39 losses.

A 40th defeat would have overtaken Stockport United and put Poole into the famous book for the worst losing streak in English soccer.

Now that Poole and

Stockport United, which set the mark in 1978, are tied on 39, Guinness historians are unlikely to keep the record in the book. That would be good news for Stockport United, too.

Poole, which had scored just 12 goals this season and conceded 175, were hailed as heroes as the players left the field and the draw meant the team had scored its first point of the campaign.

Now the team, which has been forced to field 15 and 16-year-olds because more experienced players have left, has to try and gain another seven points to avoid finishing last.

Horrific injury for Coventry player

Coventry defender David Busst was said to be "comfortable" as he recovered in hospital from surgery to repair a broken right leg.

The Birmingham-born defender was taken to Hope Hospital near Manchester for surgery after an horrific accident during Coventry's 1-0 defeat by English Premier Division leader Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Busst, 28, suffered the sickening injury in a collision with United's Denis

Irwin after just 80 seconds of the match.

The compound fracture was so bad that blood had to be cleared from the pitch before the match could resume and other players were visibly shaken.

United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, one of the players closest to the incident, refused to talk about it for fear that he might break down.

Busst, joined Coventry in January 1992 from non-league club Moor Green.

Dreaded drop can spell ruin

Fading English title challenger Newcastle may be forgiven for thinking that life at the top is tough — but the Geordies should spare a thought for those scrapping for survival at the foot of the Premiership.

The implications of relegation can be catastrophic as a club sinks into the murky waters of the lower divisions deprived of the financial

oxygen that comes with Premiership status.

Loss of TV and sponsorship revenue together with the inevitable drop in gate receipts and a clear-out of top players to stave off the bank manager, often spells disaster.

A look at the current state of the first division reveals the difficulties which relegated clubs face in trying to return to the top flight.

Last season, Oldham was playing Premiership football against the likes of Manchester United in front of 50,000 crowds.

Now it is third from bottom of the first division and facing a further drop into the second where it would be spending its Saturday afternoons in the company of minnows like Walsall and Shrewsbury.

Nor does money guarantee success as fans of Wolverhampton Wanderers, one of the richest and best followed clubs in the country, will testify.

The lavishly-refurbished Molineux ground is one of the best stadiums in the country and with the financial backing of Sir Jack Hayward they have spent millions assembling a squad capable of challenging for promotion.

At time of writing, the Midlands club lies 15th — only seven points off the relegation zone in a tightly-packed division where just 11 points separate fifth from top from fifth from bottom.

But where there is despair, there is always some hope — as Newcastle can prove.

At the turn of the decade, the Tyneside club was facing relegation to the second

division, bankruptcy and extinction.

But four years later, with the money of multi-millionaire chairman Sir John Hall and the expertise of manager Kevin Keegan, title-chasing Newcastle is back among the elite.

It is virtually impossible to get a ticket to its 40,000 capacity ground to see the world class skills of Faustino Asprilla, David Ginola, Les Ferdinand, Peter Beardsley and Philippe Albert.

Newcastle may fail to win its first championship title since 1927 but a place in European competition is guaranteed while the new financial and playing structure ensures it will remain at the top for years to come.

The likes of first division Luton and Port Vale may not have the pedigree of Newcastle for its massive football-mad local community to draw upon but in the money-driven world of modern English football, one rich fan will do.

Premier League Wimbledon, though, has shown what it possible achieve without money.

Twenty years ago the South London club was a non-league side drawing a crowd of a few

hundred. Ten years later it was in the top flight. In 1988 it beat mighty Liverpool to lift the FA Cup.

In 1996, thanks to the canny stewardship of managing director Sam Hammam and a succession of shrewd managers and even shrewder transfer deals, it is still in the Premiership and pondering lucrative re-location possibilities to Dublin or Cardiff where it could attract huge crowds.

The examples of Wimbledon and Newcastle testify to the infinite possibilities in English football.

But for the time being they will be of little comfort to the five clubs — Bolton, QPR, Coventry, Manchester City and Southampton — involved in the dogfight to avoid the dreaded drop from the Premiership.

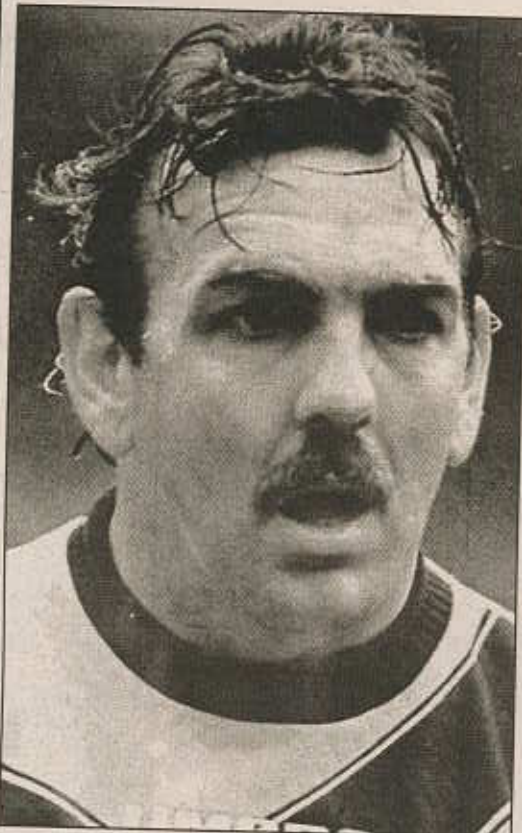
Looking ahead to the scrap over the next few weeks, veteran Manchester City striker Niall Quinn might have been speaking for any one of the clubs at the bottom when he said:

"It's absolutely vital to the club and everyone connected with it that we come through. We must show we have the spunk and bottle for it — it will be a huge fight."



Sir John Hall: Newcastle chairman and multi-millionaire businessman.

Wales planning for future



Neville Southall: Moved to coaching role with goalkeepers.

Veteran goalkeeper Neville Southall has been dropped from the Welsh side to meet Switzerland in a friendly in Lugano on April 24.

Liverpool's Ian Rush, Chelsea's Mark Hughes and Nottingham Forest's David Phillips have also been omitted. Ryan Giggs was not considered because of his Manchester United commitments.

But, in a game which provides a final chance to experiment before 1998 World Cup qualification starts against San Marino on June 2, Gould has called on Wimbledon's Vinnie Jones after his four-match international ban.

With Southall's deputy, Roger Freestone of Swansea, unavailable, Gould will choose between Wrexham's Andy Marriott and Tranmere's Danny Coyne.

Southall will be on hand to offer guidance in a coaching capacity, while Everton manager Joe Royle has made it clear he still has



Vinnie Jones: Picked by Gould after four match international ban.

a key role to play at Goodison.

Gould said of Southall: "He had a few queries at the beginning, but once those had been answered and he had resolved the

situation in his own mind, he decided to go through with it.

"He's been the rock of Wales, but he won't always be there, so we have to look forward."

COPPED TWICE FOR CANNABIS

English First Division footballer Craig Whittington was banned for over six months after testing positive for cannabis twice in 10 months.

The English Football Association banned Huddersfield player, Whittington from all footballing activities until November 1 after finding him guilty of misconduct.

Whittington first provided a positive sample in a random test on March 20 last year and tested positive again on January 9.

He told the three-man commission he had not knowingly taken the drug on either occasion.

The first time he believed he might have eaten cakes laced with cannabis at a party and again in January he claimed to have taken the drug unwittingly when smoking strangers' cigarettes at a party.

Scots lose because they're bad

A soccer-mad scientist has come up with a convincing explanation for Scottish failures in the World Cup and European competitions — the players are just not good enough.

Failure to cope with high stress levels was seen as the reason for recent dismal displays by Scottish teams.

But exhaustive research ruled out stress as a factor, Howard Kahn told the Edinburgh International Science Festival on Saturday.

"The plain fact is that managers and coaches need to spend more time with their players, teaching skills and ability," said Kahn, a lecturer at Edinburgh's Heriot Watt University.

Kahn, a soccer fan who grew up in the shadow of Glasgow's Hampden Park stadium, said continental players put in more training hours a week and trained more intensively.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 20

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SOUTH MELBOURNE
SUNCORP STADIUM - 7.00PM



SATURDAY, APRIL 20

MORWELL FALCONS
v
ADELAIDE CITY
MORWELL FALCONS PARK - 7.00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 21

SYDNEY UNITED
v
MARCONI FAIRFIELD
SYD UNITED SPTS CEN - 3.00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 21

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
v
CANBERRA COSMOS
MELB CROAT SPT CEN - 3.00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 21

WEST ADELAIDE
v
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HINDMARSH STADIUM - 7.30PM



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